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# Daily Report

## MIDDLE EAST
## and AFRICA

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 JANUARY 1984

## Islamic Summit

Muslim leaders participating in the Fourth Summit of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) in Casablanca have agreed to Egypt's return to the ICO, WAKH reported, despite "strong opposition" from Syria, Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia noted by KUNA. In closed-session debates, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat argued in favor of Egypt's readmittance, as did Iraqi Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, AFP and INA reported. In his speech to the summit, Ibrahim said the "Arabs cannot liberate an inch except with the return of Egypt," INA added.

Libyan Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud in his speech referred to the Guinean president's proposal to readmit Egypt as "a bomb that will blow up the Arabs," Tripoli radio stated. Jallud said Egypt is "now playing the role of the policeman in place of the shah of Iran" and accused it of trying to "Arabize" the Camp David agreement. Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi said that although Tunisia would like to see Egypt regain its position within the ICO, it "might not be appropriate" to raise this issue under present circumstances as the reasons for its suspension still remain, Tunis radio reported.

In a related development, "sources" in Casablanca denied that a delegation had left for Iran with the purpose of inviting it to the summit, KUNA reported, although the invitation to participate still applies.

Meetings continued along the sidelines of the summit, with Baghdad Voice of PLO radio citing separate contacts between Yasir 'Arafat and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. According to SANA, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam denied holding any meetings with 'Arafat, while Amman radio reported individual discussions between Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and 'Arafat and 'Izzat Ibrahim.

## Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Saudi consul is being held captive by the Islamic Jihad in the southern suburb of Beirut. Shi'ite extremists have prevented moderates from approaching the building and are being supported and directed by a "foreign intelligence service" which has officers in the area, the radio charged. The radio also linked the envoy's kidapping with the recent arrival in West Beirut of a terrorist nicknamed "Kissinger."

## Iran-Iraq War

One of two Iranian aircraft raiding a residential area in As-Sulaymaniyah was shot down in a dogfight with Iraqi warplanes, which all returned safely to base, Iraq announced in a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Two children were killed and 18 civilians were wounded in the Iranian raid, the communique stated.

However, in a statement broadcast by Tehran Radio, Iran's military command asserted that all Iranian planes returned safely to base after bombing and partially destroying the Iraqi military base at Kalaleh. Iraq's claim that the raid was directed against civilian targets may be designed to justify an imminent Iraqi attack on Iranian civilian areas, IRNA noted in a related report.

## Iran

Three Iranian "patriots" were killed in an armed clash with revolution guards in Tehran on 16 January, the clandestine Radio Iran reported.

## Israel

Although the convening of the Jordanian Parliament might have led Jordan along the "positive course" of advancing toward negotiations with Israel, Jordan opted not to follow such a course and, to Israel's regret, there are signs pointing in the "opposite direction," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Shamir advised Jordan to "dissociate" itself from the Rabat and Fes summit resolutions and declare its willingness to join the peace process on the basis of the Camp David accords. Shamir also reaffirmed Israel's willingness to negotiate with Jordan but said the latter must choose between negotiations with Israel and with the "terrorists."

## Jordan

The House of Representatives elected seven deputies to fill the vacant West Bank seats and its speaker, 'Akif al-Fayiz, subsequently revealed that elections for the vacant East Bank seats will be held within the next 2 months, Amman radio reported.

## Sudan-Ethiopia

Large numbers of Ethiopian soldiers and civilians have crossed into northeast Sudan fleeing from Eritrean guerilla forces which captured three Ethiopian border towns, SUNA reported.

FBIS

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## Casablanca Islamic Summit Continues Deliberations

### Egypt's Return Said Approved

*GF190540 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0536 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] Casablanca, 19 Jan (WAKH) — WAKH has learned that during their third session the leaders of the Muslim world have agreed to Egypt's return to the ICO. The third session ended at 0300 today Moroccan time, 0600 Gulf time. The Muslim leaders also approved the political resolutions on their agenda — resolutions that have been prepared by their foreign ministers. The resolutions will be announced at the final session of the conference scheduled to be held at 1230 today, Moroccan time.

### Hassan Chairs Closed Session

*LD181644 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] The fourth Islamic summit conference continues its work in closed session, chaired by His Majesty King Hassan II. Leaders of the Islamic countries resumed their meetings at 1400 today in the Royal Palace. This morning, the Committee for Solidarity with the Saharan Peoples met under the chairmanship of the Iraqi foreign minister. The session was attended by ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti.

### Islamic Court Agreed On

*GF181848 Manama WAKH in English 1625 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[By WAKH correspondent]

[Text] Casablanca, 18 Jan (WAKH) — The Islamic summit conference has decided to form an international Islamic court to look into controversies in Islamic countries. The eight-member panel of judges will also interpret bilateral and multiparties agreements and adiudicate on issues concerning international law. The court will be opened continuously except on official holiday. The judges will be choosen from the member countries. They should not be under 40 and must be a well versed in international law.

### 'Arafat Elected Deputy Chairman

*GF181934 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] The Islamic summit conference, which is meeting in Casablanca, elected Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Turkey, and Senegal as the permanent deputy chairmen of the summit conference.

### 18 Jan Session Reported

*LD182040 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The Fourth Islamic summit conference continues in Casablanca in closed sessions under the chairmanship of King Hassan II. The conference has been holding its third session since 1400 today and it is still continuing.

The committee for solidarity with the Sahel peoples met this morning under the chairmanship of the Iraqi foreign minister and in the presence of Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Habib Chatti. The committee consists of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Malysia, the PLO, and Mali.

Bilateral meetings continue among the Muslim leaders. Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba met at his residence in Casablanca with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq and with Turkish President Kenan Evren. Also present at the meetings were Habib Bourguiba Jr, personal adviser to the Tunisia president, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caïd es-Sebsi, and Tunisian Information Minister Abderrazak Kafi.

Prince Hasan ibn Talal, Jordanian crown prince and Jordanian chief delegate to the fourth Islamic conference, today met with Deputy Chairman of the Iraqi Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim, who is leading the Iraqi delegation to the summit conference. The discussions covered matters pertaining to the Islamic summit conference, the present situation, and bilateral relations.

The official spokesman of the Afghan mujahidin held a press conference in Casablanca at which he spoke of the military situation in his country and the conditions set by the Afghan mujahidin for entering into any talks with the USSR. The spokesman, Burhanuddin Rabbani, said the first demand of the Afghan mujahidin is the withdrawal of Soviet forces from the country and the return of Afghan refugees, who now number 300 million [as heard].

He discounted the likelihood of the mujahidin entering into dialogue with the Afghan Government. He said it is the Soviets who are the party concerned with the Afghan problem and that all that can be discussed with them is their withdrawal from Afghan territory. As for internal matters and the form of regime, these are matters that concern the Afghan people alone.

### Numayri Remarks at 17 Jan Session

*JN182020 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Casablanca, 18 Jan (SUNA) — President of the republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri yesterday called on the Islamic countries leaders to lift the suspension of Egypt's membership in the ICO. In his address before the ICO second closed-door session yesterday President Numayri emphasized the leading role of Egypt in the Arab and Islamic world. Numayri's call has been met with great welcome except from Syria and Libya. President Numayri emphasized the necessity of Egypt's return to the ICO pointing out Sudan's attitude in this regard. Yesterday's night session had focused on Egypt's return which was opposed by Syria, Libya, Algeria, and Yemen.

The Syrian regime's representative criticized Jordan for its endeavours to coordinate Jordanian, Egyptian, and Palestinian cause.

President Numayri is currently holding intensified consultations with the delegations' heads on lifting suspension of Egypt's membership.

### 'Arafat Urges Readmittance of Egypt

*BK190224 Hong Kong AFP in English 0208 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] Casablanca, Jan 19 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat argued last night at the Islamic conference here for readmitting Egypt to the ICO, sources close to the debates said. Mr. 'Arafat insisted on the sacrifices Egypt had made for the Palestinian cause, the sources added. Egypt was suspended from the ICO in 1979 because of its peace treaty with Israel.

### Pakistan's Zia Addresses Summit

*BK180604 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has told the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca that the pious life and noble teachings of the holy prophet, peace be upon him, is the only ideology of Islam. He implored the Islamic community to follow these teachings in letter and spirit to ensure unity and solidarity among themselves. He was speaking in the first closed-door session of the fourth Islamic summit yesterday in support of the proposals made by the Guinean president, Sekou Toure, in which he had called for the readmission of Egypt to the ICO and for sending a special mission to Tehran to persuade Iran to attend the Islamic summit conference. The president said as far as Pakistan is concerned, we are fully committed to the ideology provided by the holy prophet, peace be upon him, and this should also be the commitment of the entire Islamic community. The president declared amid applause that this is the only Islamic ideology and in it there is no question of leftist, progressive, or conservative rightist ideology. Islam does not recognize such divisions.

According to conference sources, the president made these fervent, forthright, and principled observations following the stand taken by the Libyan prime minister. Mr 'Abd as-Salam Jallud said that there are two separate ideologies in Islam — one leftist-progressive and the other rightist-conservative. Mr 'Abd as-Salam Jallud had taken this stand while opposing the Guinean president's proposal to readmit Egypt into the ICO. The president of Pakistan stated in no uncertain terms that there is no room for such ideologies in Islam.

He regretfully stated that they have adopted such double standards despite the fact that in Islam there is no Arab, no Persian, no African, and no Turk. We are all one Islamic community.

The president opposed the stand taken by Libya and Syria that the decision for the readmission of Egypt into the ICO should first be made by the Arab League. The president stated clearly that the ICO should make its own decisions and should not be dependent on the Arab League. He said the ICO had been established to ensure the unity and solidarity of the Islamic community and creating differences and unrest among the community is not its objective.

Referring to the absence of two important members — Iran and Egypt — from the fourth Islamic summit conference, the president fully endorsed suggestions made by President Sekou Toure for sending a delegation to Iran to persuade it to attend the summit conference. He said they should not let Iran feel that it is being isolated.

About Egypt, the president said they must at least review the question of Egypt's readmission to the ICO. Egypt has made sacrifices for the cause of the Arabs and the Palestinians and it frustrated Israel's belief of being unbeatable during the war of (?Ramadan), he observed. Referring to the criticism of Egypt by the Syrian foreign minister for signing the Camp David agreement and seriously harming the cause of the Arabs and Palestinians, President Mohammd Ziaul Haq asked all those participating in the summit not to apply double standards and to see who betrayed the Palestinians and had them thrown out of Lebanon and Syria.

The president also referred to one-sided criticism of a superpower, the United States, and said that while criticizing one superpower and praising the other — the Soviet Union — they forget that the Soviet Union has been occupying an Islamic country for the last 4 years. The Soviet Union wants us to extend the hand of friendship toward Afghanistan overlooking events there as a fait accompli. This is also a double standard. The Islamic community should be high minded and self-respecting. As for Pakistan, he said, its support to Arabs, Palestinians, and non-Arab countries has been universally recognized. Pakistan has played a significant role by supporting these as well as non-Arab countries in their struggle for freedom through the right to self-determination. Pakistan was a staunch supporter of the cause of these countries and it has played a prominent role in helping various areas to get rid of the neocolonialist system. Now these areas are independent. The president declared amid applause that Pakistan would always be ready to make any sacrifice for the Muslim countries. He said if he were to come on earth 10 times, he would fight for Syria, Palestine, and Muslims in the name of Islam.

### Syria's Khaddam Makes Speech

*JN181608 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Casablanca — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a speech during the second session of the fourth Islamic summit conference. He began his speech by conveying the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Arab people, coupled with their wishes of success, to the fourth Islamic summit conference.

Hhaddam said: The forces (?of) Zionism, colonialism, and imperialism fear the unity and clarity of our objective and want us weak and fragmented. Therefore, they make plans to disunite the Islamic states and squander their forces and efforts.

Regarding the situation in the region, he said: There are three main issues in the Middle East arena. These are the Palestine question with all its ramifications, the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories, and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Khaddam said: We hold the Palestine question top among our interests because it is the crux of struggle between our nation and Zionism. It is, consequently, the axis of our struggle. We are determined to exert all possible efforts to uphold our cause.

He reiterated that the only acceptable solution for the Palestine question is a solution that recognizes the Palestinian people's rights. Regarding Lebanon, he said: We stand on its side with all our potential. We support its efforts toward liberation from the Israeli occupation and foiling the attempts to chain it with conditions and restrictions that turn it into an Israeli protectorate, rob it of its independence and sovereignty, and threaten its security and the unity of both its people and territory in the same manner as they threaten the security of Syria and the Arab nation.

He added: When Lebanon was subjected to the Israeli invasion, the Syrian forces were the only forces to confront it and stand against it with the Palestinian and national Lebanese resistance. We gave several martyrs in the battlefield.

Khaddam held the United States responsible for the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Arab nation. In this regard, he indicated that the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement has serious dimensions with regard to our Arab region and the Islamic states. He added that this agreement makes the United States Israel's full partner in aggression. It also practically turns Israel into a base for the U.S. forces and an arsenal for the U.S. weapons.

**Further on Khaddam Speech**

*JN182112 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpts] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, described the Middle East situation as serious, volatile, and extremely dangerous to world security. In a speech at the fourth Islamic summit conference, Khaddam added that this volatile situation is caused by Israel's aggression which is backed by imperialism.

He stressed that Syria places the Palestine question at the head of its aims, considering it the crux of the Arab-Zionist conflict. He added: We will not be dissuaded from supporting it by the treason of a traitor, the relinquishment of rights, the selling of the cause, or the deviation of someone tempted by false promises. Khaddam warned the ones who are tampering with this cause and with the Palestinian people's destiny of the dangers of their actions because this cause is a trust assumed by all the Arabs. He said that the only acceptable solution to this issue is the guaranteeing of the Palestinian people's rights in accordance with the UN resolutions and those of the Islamic and nonaligned summit conferences.

Khaddam condemned the U.S. forces' presence in Lebanon and described these forces as becoming a partner fighting alongside the militias and serving Israel's hostile aims. He said that the United States' insistence on absolute bias toward Israel encourages the latter to commit aggression and hampers any available chance to establish a just peace in the region. Khaddam said that Washington went so far as to use its ground, sea, and air forces against the Lebanese people and against Syria. However, he said, the United States was wrong in its calculations when it imagined that its armed force could subjugate us to its will and that the gun is the means of dialogue with us.

Khaddam described the 17 May agreement as having serious dimensions with regard to our Arab region and all the Islamic states because it practically added the United States' military power to that of Israel in confronting the Arab nation. He indicated that Washington was and is still aiming at maintaining Israel's military superiority over the Arab countries. Khaddam said that the strategic cooperation agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv makes the United States Israel's partner and turns Israel into a military base for the U.S. forces in the region and a warehouse for the U.S. weapons. In this regard, Khaddam said: It is time for us to thoroughly reconsider the situation and draw up the future picture. We have only two options: either a just peace that ends aggression and occupation and returns rights to their owners, or acceptance of the false peace plans which practically mean capitulation, loss, and subjugation to the imperialist and Zionist domination.

Khaddam emphasized that we have a real interest in peace and that we have offered great sacrifices for its sake at a time when our enemies are talking about peace while seeking to impose capitulation on us, a matter which we categorically reject. Khaddam called for an end to the arms race, considering this a direct threat to humanity involving a horrible disaster. He also called for an end to the rich countries' sway over the destinies of the Third World countries and peoples. He then called for a just world economic order, international detente, and consolidation of the United Nations' ability to perform the role for which it was established. He called for a continuous stand in support of strugglers for freedom and justice.

**Libya's Jallud Speech Reported**

*LD181548 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud addressed the fourth Islamic summit yesterday in Casablanca. In his speech, he talked about the suggestion by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure calling for canceling the suspension of Egypt's membership in the ICO. Staff Major Jallud responded to this suggestion, explaining that we know about the subject that President Ahmed Sekou Toure has suggested. The wheeling and dealing went on behind the scenes of the conference. We are sorry that such a role was given to President Sekou Toure, and we would like to draw the conference's attention to the fact that the resolution to suspend Egypt's membership in the ICO was adopted for certain reasons, and this suspension will not be raised except when those reasons are removed.

He said that we laugh when Sekou Toure says we must go to Egypt, and that if Egypt comes to us we will ask it to remove the

reasons for its suspension. He said in reply to Sekou Toure that if we go to Egypt, which betrayed Islam and the Muslims and struck them in a most sinister way, we also would be surrendering to Zionism.

He confirmed that Toure's call agrees with the movement led by some Arab and Islamic regimes. It is a movement for whose justification a mass of circumstances are cited. Egypt has tried to return to the Islamic fold via some treacherous paths. Egypt wants to Arabize Camp David and make us go back on Baghdad's resolution and go to Egypt. He said that those who want to sell the cause will not be rewarded. The offer is refused and the cost is rejected. I ask President Sekou Toure to withdraw this decision, because he has thrown a bomb in the conference, and this bomb will destroy everything we have built.

Staff Major Jallud added that when it failed to Arabize Camp David, Egypt tried to jump through the window of the ICO. Staff Major Jallud confirmed that the reasons that led to the suspension of Egypt's membership of the ICO have become worse than before. The British forces, which were expelled from Egypt, have returned there, as has the United States with the Rapid Deployment Forces. Egypt is now playing the role of the policeman in place of the shah of Iran. It threatens neighboring peaceful powers such as the Libyans and the Africans.

The Guinean president's suggestion is like a bomb that will blow up the Arabs and is a setback for the Baghdad conference. We support the Egyptian people, but they are a people whose will has been stolen. 'Abd an-Nasir's Egypt is not Camp David's Egypt. We are standing by the Egyptian people and its vital forces, so how can we go to Egypt and shake hands with Shamir and the rest of the Zionists?

The staff major pointed out that the suggestion made by President Sekou Toure legally contradicts the charter of the conference, as no member is allowed to put any issue or subject in the agenda later than 15 days before the opening of the session.

In his speech Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud stressed the principled and firm stances of the Al-Fatih Revolution toward the Islamic issues and supporting and reinforcing freedom issues everywhere. He also stressed the firm stance of the Jamahiriyah toward the national cause of the Palestinian people. He said that we do not raise any slogan by which we gain Gaza and sell the Palestinian cause. The cause is the essence of Arab nationalism, and the Zionist enemy today still occupies Arab territories and Jordan has no right to deal with the Palestinian cause. Such moves must be confronted and defeated.

Staff Maj Jallud demanded that the ICO be freed of the policy that they want to impose on it. He said that our gathering here must not be restricted to building mosques, centers and institutions and so on, lest our peoples condemn us. He confirmed the needs of the 1 billion Muslims in the world and stated that their economic, political, and military solidarity must be built on an Islamic basis so that we become a power for good. He said this is very difficult, as forces want now to tame the Arab and Islamic nations so that they can alter Islam and the Koran and ignore the verses of the Koran that point out the jihad, as they do in Egypt now. He added that it makes us feel sorry that even those who want to surrender and who want to sell the cause free of charge and want to sell the Palestinian cause cannot find buyers.

### Tunesian Foreign Minister Cited

*LD190952 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Excerpts] The work of the fourth Islamic summit in Casablanca was due to end last night, but it was announced that the final session will be held this morning, Thursday.

Concerning Tunisia's position on the readmission of Egypt to the ICO, Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi said that the matter does not concern relations between Islamic countries and the Egyptian people. Tunis loves the Egyptian people, who will always remain close to Tunisia. There is nothing more dear to Tunisia then to see the Egyptian people regain their position within the ICO and to see the Egyptian Government return to the Islamic countries' fold. However, to raise the issue under the present circumstances might not be appropriate; it might contradict the aims of those who want to raise the matter especially as the reasons which led to Egypt's suspension still remain. Tunisia considers it better to let current developments to take their course in the hope that they will lead to the gradual removal of these reasons. The Islamic nation will then need to review its resolution on Egypt's suspension.

It must be remembered that the issue is not on the agenda and the preparatory foreign ministers meeting could not study it.

### Iraqi Envoy Addresses Summit

*JN181900 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Casablanca, 18 Jan (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has said that if Iraq finds that the road of peace is blocked and that the Iranian aggressor is persisting in its intransigence and foolishness, it will be forced to stand strongly in the face of aggression and all the waves of its rancor will be destroyed in front of the Iraqs' insistence on defending their homeland, sanctities, and the souls of their sons. He said that the Muslims will be held responsible for this waste of lives and funds. All enemies and Zionists, he added, will find in this an appropriate chance to achieve their expansionist ambitions and hostile plans at the expense of the Arabs and Mulsims. He said that security will continue to be threatened and stability lost as long as the aggressor remains unpunished and continues to export his chaos and subversive plans without being taken to task by anyone.

In a speech delivered today at the fourth Islamic summit conference, currently being held in Casablanca, the RCC vice chairman and head of the Iraqi delegation added that Iraq's cooperation with the ICO's activities stems from its deep faith in the importance of the ICO's aims and from its positive evaluation of this organization's effective role in the fields of its work and activity. He pointed out that the international community has exerted the utmost efforts to return Iran to the sound course and guide it to the road of peace, but in vain. As for Iraq, he said, it has exerted all efforts with patience, a matter which has rendered its stand clear to you and to all the competent international institutions.

The cease-fire initiatives Iraq proposed, particularly on religious occasions, emphasized its good will and sincere desire to create a suitable atmosphere for the sake of ending war and following the path of justice and peace in solving its problems with its neighbors.

'Izzat Ibrahim announced Iraq's support for Egypt's return to the Arab League and the ICO. He called for eliminating the reasons that led to boycotting it. He said that the Arabs cannot liberate an inch except with the return of Egypt. He praised Egypt's stand toward Iraq in its war with Iran and said: We see that some Arabs are siding with the enemy against Iraq and even supporting falsehood against justice although the two countries are Islamic and ICO members. The Arabs, Muslims, and the entire world know that Iraq is right and Iran is wrong. Nevertheless, these Arabs side with falsehood, that is, with Iran. This is Egypt's stand and this is the transformation in Egypt's life.

He added that Egypt's stand angers all the forces of evil in the world, headed by Zionism and Israel. He praised Egypt's important role in protecting the PLO fighters upon their departure from Lebanon — a protection which provided them with aircraft and a fleet to transport them. Egypt, he said, was the only Arab country that participated in protecting them, alongside the other international forces, when the PLO was exposed to the most serious massacre at the hands of the Arabs themselves.

'Izzat Ibrahim added that Iraq's desire for peace is a genuine desire expressing the enlightened human nature that seeks good and expresses the heavenly principles which call for moving in this direction. He added that Iran's rejection of the principle of arbitration clearly indicates its rejection of the efforts of the Muslims and their representatives in the ICO and the Islamic peace committee. It also means a desire to continue aggression and war.

'Izzat Ibrahim said: If the Iranian rulers want to impose arbitrary conditions to end the war, Iraq, in compliance with the principles of international law and out of its belief in the peoples' right to sovereignty, independence, and dignified life, rejects such unjust conditions which act as a tangible proof of these rulers' insistence on war and desire for aggression and expansion. He emphasized that the continuation of war means further sacrifices, losses, victims, waste of the Muslims' funds, and threat to the security of both the Muslims and the world at large. Therefore, he said, the logical solution is represented in ceasing fire and adopting practical measures for arbitration and negotiations. The side that abstains from embarking on these steps should be specified and punished according to the Islamic principles.

He stressed that the Muslims' life is today witnessing events and developments that expose their heritage, values, principles, and the position of their states to harm. This life is marked by division, disputes, fratricide, and absence of cooperation and coordination. He added that the Muslims are being assailed by the enemies and colonialists due to their weakness, division, and disputes.

The RCC vice chairman also mentioned the crimes and the brutal genocidal operations that the Zionists have committed against people and their property with the support of the U.S. imperialist forces, exploiting the weakness, fragmentation, and dispute of the Arabs and Muslims. He added that this clearly shows the importance of a unified Islamic action. The ICO, which was created as a result of the belief that a joint faith will spread closeness and solidarity among the Muslims, has also expressed the need for such action. He expressed his belief that Iraq's cooperation with the organization's activities stems from its deep belief in the organization's objectives and effective role, and also asserted that Iraq's political activities and actions concerning its foreign relations and the expression of its principles and objectives also stem from its deep belief in the tolerant religion and in adhering to international laws and norms.

The RCC vice chairman explained Iraq's good will and sincere desire to prepare the appropriate atmosphere to end the war and adopt the methods of justice and peace in resolving its problems with its neighbors. He called for concluding a special agreement with Iran to guarantee that the villages, cities, and civilian establishments will not be shelled so that souls and property can be protected. He also reviewed the good effort that the international community has exerted to stop the war, and Iran's opposition, procrastination, ignorance, and rejection of Security Council and UN resolutions, the peaceful calls from the nonaligned countries and the good offices committee, and the At-Ta'if conference resolutions.

The RCC vice chairman said that events have clearly disclosed Iran's insistence on committing aggression and rejecting any peaceful initiative, a fact that places two options before the Islamic Summit conference — first, accepting the continued aggression and ignoring the Muslims' unanimity and will and the will of the international community; second, deterring the aggressor and punishing it by taking immediate and practical measures that will prevent it from continuing the war and force it to respond to the call of justice and refrain from shedding blood. He asserted that as a result of the conspiracies and liquidatory efforts that the Palestine question is being exposed to, the conference should assume a great responsibility and urge all the participants to take every action to support the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, the PLO, extend to it every aid, support, backing and guarantee, and respect its independent decisionmaking.

The RCC vice chairman asserted that what is encouraging the Zionist to continue their inhuman violations, commit massacres, and ignore all human values is the unlimited material, military, and moral support from the colonialist forces, the United States in particular. He added: Were it not for the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the preoccupation of its people in defending their cities, lands, and people, the Zionists would never have been able to harm Iraq and commit aggression against the nuclear reactor that Iraq had built for peaceful purposes. The head of the Iraqi delegation concluded his speech by stressing that the unity of the Muslims' positions and decisions as well as their close relations will constitute an effective factor for achieving victory over Zionism and imperialismm without which they will not be able to liberate Jerusalem from the paws of injustice and aggression and to regain their legitimate rights in Palestine.

### Khaddam Denies Meeting 'Arafat

*JN181433 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Casablanca, 18 Jan (SANA) — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has denied that he has held any meetings with Yasir 'Arafat.

### Delegation Departs for Tehran

*LD181753 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpts] Casablanca, 18 Jan (KUNA) — Sources of the fourth Islamic summit conference stated today that a ministerial delegation representing the conference left Casablanca late last night for Tehran in an attempt to convince the Iranian Government to enter into negotiations to end its war with Iraq. Iran had earlier announced its boycott of the Islamic summit. The Islamic delegation that left for Tehran includes a number of foreign ministers and a senior official of the ICO General Secretariat.

### Delegation Report Denied

*LD182011 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1942 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] Casablanca, 18 Jan (KUNA) — Sources at the Islamic summit conference have denied here today that any delegation from the summit has gone to Iran to invite it to take part in the conference. The sources told KUNA that the invitation to Iran to take part in the summit still applies.

### Jordanian-Palestinian Technical Committee Meets

*GF181914 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] The meeting of the technical committee, which stems from the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in occupied Arab territories, began in Amman today.

### PLO's Abu Mazin Comments on Moscow Visit

*JN181755 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Brother Abu Azin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, has concluded a visit to Moscow during which he held talks with representatives of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Foreign Ministry, and the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

In a statement to WAFA on the visit and its results, Abu Mazin said: We discussed the current state of affairs in the Middle East, particularly following the departure of brother leader Abu 'Ammar and the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli. The Soviet side reaffirmed its constant and principled support for the Palestinian people's struggle and for the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The Soviet side also stressed the importance of Palestinian unity and the need to preserve it. The Soviets stressed that they will reiterate this stand to all the Palestinian forces. The Soviet side also renewed its confidence in the national course practiced by the PLO's leadership and emphasized the need to preserve this course, particularly since the Palestinian leadership has always confirmed its rejection of the Reagan plan and the Camp David agreements, which do not fulfill the aspirations and objectives of the Palestinian struggle.

### PLO's Ad-Dajani SAWT ASH-SHA'B Interview

*JN151347 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 84 pp 16, 17*

[Interview with Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, PLO Executive Committee member, by Hidayat 'Abd an-Nabi in Cairo — date not specified]

[Excerpts] *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: With the beginning of 1984 the most important issue facing us is the U.S. elections. The United States assumes a special responsibility in the region because it is the largest force in the peace-keeping forces in Lebanon. As a PLO Executive Committee member, what is your message to the United States on the eve of a new year —the year of the U.S. elections?

Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani: I tried in four recent articles to address this message. Briefly it says: The U.S. policy adopted by President Reagan's administration has led to great suffering in the region. This policy, however, is like all the U.S. policies adopted by previous administrations since 1967, varying in degrees to the worst. Events have proved that these policies or policy, governed by one line, failed to establish peace in the region. Therefore, this policy has to be reconsidered in a manner that leads to a radical change in content and method so that it can then adopt one clear concept, which is the concept of a just peace through a comprehensive settlement that takes place at the same time on all fronts and that leads to the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories and to the Palestinian people's exercise of all their national, inalienable rights.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: May I pause here for a while? Reagan's September 1982 initiative paved the way for the attainment of the minimum of what you have just mentioned. Why did the PLO not benefit from the positive aspects of the initiative?

Ad-Dajani: I made an analytical study of President Reagan's initiative after we had spent scores of hours studying it. In fact, this initiative included what doomed it to failure. If we look at the way this initiative was formulated we find that in no way did it succeed in presenting that main line which I explained. To begin with, it talked about a move on all fronts, but remained captive of the U.S. idea which calls for reaching a settlement by singling out one front after another. It remained captive of the famous Kissingerian condition of not dealing with the PLO. It failed to publicly recognize the Palestinian people's natural right to self-determination. It ignored the basic issues regarding land and people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: Why did Israel and the PLO reject Reagan's initiative?

Ad-Dajani: Here we must well understand the Israeli stance which is based on the attempt to confiscate any U.S. move right from the beginning. This has always been Israel's policy. You ask me this question today when Shamir told *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* that Israel rejects any reactivation of Reagan's plan. Before the U.S. Administration presented the initiative it consulted the U.S. Jewish forces and even asked some persons who are well known for their great enthusiasm for Israel to draft the sensitive paragraphs of this initiative. Thus, it was drafted in a manner which doomed it to failure. The Israeli rejection indicates some sort of tactic and is a continuation of the Israeli trend that rejects the United States' preoccupation in any move of this sort.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: We know you as one of the leading Palestinian intellectuals who are closely following what is taking place in Israel and between the Jews and Americans. Why did you not recommend the acceptance of Reagan's initiative so that the PLO would put Israel in an unenviable position?

Ad-Dajani: Tactics would outweigh strategy if such a stand were adopted. In this case Israel may actually be embarrased, but at the same time this would mean a basic abandonment of a positionthat the PLO cannot give up. This position is represented in the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self-determination, repatriation, and estabishment of an independent state.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: Since the restoration of Sinai, the Palestine question has witnessed successive setbacks. The organization had a chance to join King Husayn, but fear of a split halted the march. Had there been deep insight into the course of history, any person would have foreseen a PLO split after Beirut, whether or not the PLO joined King Husayn, so there has been a lost opportunity since 1982. What do you say about that?

Ad-Dajani: Your remarks raise more than one point. First, we had an opportunity. I should say here that I was one of those who talked about an opportunity to reach a speedy settlement after the Palestinian departure from Beirut. I expressed this in writing, and I have plunged into a political experience within the PLO leadership since August 1983. That move was part of the Arab move that began with the convening of the second Fes conference in September 1983. That opportunity has failed. If we want to assess the causes of that failure objectively — and I tried to draw up such an objective assessment in some of my writings — I would refer to the presence of a Palestinian factor and to the presence of an Arab factor. However, I believe that the main cause of that lost opportunity was the usual rejectionist Israeli position and the position of President Reagan's administration, which did not embody the credibility of its commitments following the departure. They spoke about a solution to Lebanon's problem before 1982 on the basis of a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon's territory. That year elapsed without achieving that goal. The U.S. Administration spoke about freezing the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Nothing of this kind has happened. It was clear that the U.S. Administration could not act because its efforts are concentrated on its basic problem, the conflict with the Soviet Union. I should also refer to another factor. Following Andropov's assumption of power, Soviet policy showed firmness against U.S. policy on this subject. All these factors have led to that lost opportunity. Regarding the Palestinian factor, there is much to be said. However, we should say that within the current construction of the Palestinian formula, there were a number of factors necessitating that the Palestinian move be accompanied by a consistent Arab move. The Palestinian move will not be successful without the completion of that consistent Arab move. This is my interpretation of the lost opportunity.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: I ask this question for a simple reason — namely, that following a meeting the political group held with President Mubarak, Ambassador Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs, answered a question on whether Cairo has received information that the United States was ready to contact the PLO if the latter recognized Israel's existence and accepted Security Council Resolutions No 242 and 338. Al-Baz said: In this regard, the U.S. stand was recently reconfirmed, and this stand stresses this meaning. [sentence as published] Therefore, I asked my previous question.

Ad-Dajani: My answer is clear. This U.S. stand is not a new one, and Kissinger's condition that the U.S. Administration will not contact the PLO unless it recognizes Israel's existence includes that. This problem has existed since 1974, and it will not be resolved without the PNC. The PNC's resolutions are clear in this regard. The PLO continues to believe that Resolution No. 242 does not deal with the Palestine question, but views that question as a question of refugees. I do not see any possibility of a change in the Palestinian arena concerning this point. Therefore, I want to draw attention to the need to adopt another position based on a comprehensive and just settlement that can realize a just peace. This should be achieved on all fronts at the same time by mobilizing all Arab energies at the same time in order to persuade the United States that there will never be any stability in the region without that settlement. Certain international parties should also participate in achieving that settlement. Such conviction has increased, and the important statements our Jordanian brothers have made show that this conviction is now clear, because the political line that continued in the region for several years has proved that the current U.S. Administration is not able to reach a just peace. The second point is very important —namely, that when a number of painful events took place in the Palestinian arena, the enemy suffered from much more painful events.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: Was the building of 100 new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza a loss or a gain for the Palestinian cause?

Ad-Dajani: Thank you very much for these questions, which deal with the worries of our sincere Arab brothers. We who specialize in details must clarify these obscure thoughts. This can be done by carefully studying the situation in the occupied territories. I spend dozens of hours studying reports from the occupied territories, listening to our people who come from there, and discussing issues with those who visit the territories from all over the world. I must say that the threats posed by the settlements must not change our views on tackling this situation, for two reasons. The first can be explained by an Arab proverb which says that the goat does not care if it is flayed after being killed. If Israel insists on settlements and on a solution that aims only

at improving the lot of the Palestinians, then there is nothing for the Palestinians to fear. If they are killed, why should they fear being skinned? The second reason is that the successive Israeli governments have been adhering to the policy of settling in Arab territories.

As I fear the continuation of the settlement policy, I can only conclude that our people are clinging to their land. There will be attempts to force them to emigrate, but they will resist these attempts.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: You said that there is one way left for the Palestinian — to resist. You are now, following your evacuation from southern Lebanon, very far from Israel. How can the Palestinian resistance fight Israel when it is thousands of miles away?

Ad-Dajani: Let us go back to te issue of organizing the Palestinian house — an issue that is connected with Palestinian-Arab relations. The Palestinian resistance was and will always remain part of the Arab nation's resistance to this great danger threatening the entire Arab nation. Considering the Egyptian-Israeli peace experiment, we find that most of the Israeli military power is still directed against Egypt. This was clear from Arens' statement when he presented the defense budget. Therefore, the Palestinian resistance is part of this Arab resistance. Any attempt to take it away from the Arab resistance is wrong. Therefore, we must organize our relations, taking into consideration the above mentioned facts. We must employ an effective, open-minded policy that takes into consideration the international balance of power, the facts in the region, and the nature of the U.S. policy. If we do this, the resistance will not be far; it will be on the borders. Therefore, the resistance will carry out its logical, carefully drawn up duties.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: You said that we hold many cards. What will be the role of the moderate Arab states — namely Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the Arab Maghreb states?

Ad-Dajani: There is an urgent need for confrontation. In one of my articles, I demanded that each Arab country should separately consider this confrontation. Each country should organize its cards against the United States and on the international level. Each country must carefully consider how to use its cards and how to evaluate its own military strength. I also demanded a joint Arab strategy. We should move along these lines. There are numerous cards. They deal with investments, bilateral or joint Arab relations, the Arab strategic position, and manpower. The Arab resources are scattered, and this should be dealt with. Therefore, I say that what we need in 1984 is to put the Arab house in order.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: With or without Egypt?

Ad-Dajani: The Arab house cannot be put in order without Egypt. Egypt is an integral part of the Arab homeland. The talk about a temporary situation cannot be allowed. We have been reiterating that this situation can be dealt with by carefully considering all factors in the problem. Arab thought will be able to deal with this situation. The Arab house is an integrated whole, and Egypt is part of it. Last year we explained some of the difficulties in the Arab house, such as the Gulf war, which affects Iraqi-Syrian relations; the Sahara war, which affects Moroccan-Algerian relations; and the problem of Egypt's Arab relations. I said that these problems should be solved as soon as possible.

*SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: In future political developments, what exactly do you want Jordan and Egypt to do during the U.S. presidential elections?

Ad-Dajani: There must be a special role for the confrontation states surrounding Palestine — namely Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. I will always aspire to and work for a strong Arab position, through the conforntation states, with a strategic Arab depth.

Unless the Arab house is put in order, the participation in any settlement will be a waste of resources. No settlement can express Arab interests if it is concluded in an atmosphere of Arab differences, because the Arab negotiator would be very weak. Therefore, we rejected the U.S.-Israeli approach, which wanted to deal with us one by one. A careful study has shown that the experiment of separate negotiations cannot succeed in the Arab east. Therefore, there should be comprehensive negotiations that would include all parties concerned. These negotiations should be very brief in order to reach a just peace. I believe that the next few months will crystallize the balance of power equation between the two superpowers. This will allow the Arabs to deal with this equation in the interest of their cause.

## BAHRAIN

### AFP Correspondent Expelled Over Kuwaiti Articles

*NC181843 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Manama, Jan 18 (AFP) — An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent has been expelled from Bahrain as a result of articles she wrote following a series of bombings in Kuwait last December 12.

Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'Ayyad informed the AFP last December 22 that it wanted deputy AFP bureau chief Sophie Shihad ad-Din to leave immediately, but gave her 25 days to arrange her departure.

The expulsion resulted from charges by the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY that Ms Shihad ad-Din's articles were "not objective," particularly in references to "alleged tension between Kuwait's religious communities."

(The AFP management in Paris issued a statement today rejecting the allegations, saying the article in question aimed only to describe reality in Kuwait. "In attempting to clarify the situation in Kuwait for readers, Ms Shihad ad-Din accomplished her task in strict respect of journalistic objectivity," the statement said.)

In reporting the expulsion, the Manama based GULF NEWS AGENCY said the six member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council had an agreement on the handling of such cases.

## KUWAIT

### Prime Minister Receives Nigerian Official

*LD181153 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] His highness the deputy amir and heir apparent, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, received at the prime minister's office at 1130 today a member of the Nigerian Supreme Military Council, Brig. Mohamed Nasko, who handed his highness a message to the amir from Major General Mohamed Buhari, the chairman of the Military Federal Government and Supreme Commander of the Nigerian armed forces.

The meeting was attended by the Nigerian ambassador to Kuwait.

## PDRY

### Supreme People's Council Session Concludes

*GF181456 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council this morning concluded the meetings of its 16th session, which began the day before yesterday under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In their final meeting, the council listened to a reply by the brother planning minister on the members' discussion on the proposed plan for the fourth year of the economic and social development plan for 1984. The council approved the draft plans for the state's general budget and estimated financial budget for establishments in the public sector, and the export and import plan for 1984.

The council also discussed and approved a report on the government's accounts for the fiscal year 1981. It listened to a report on the results of the third session of the people's local elections. The council expressed satisfaction over the elections and their results, which tangibly embodied the deep ties between local authorities and the people, who express their aspirations for leadership in a democratic manner.

The council discussed an evaluation report on the work plan of the Supreme People's Council, the Presidium and the Standing Committees for the year 1983.

### Press Statement Issued

*GF182002 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jan 84*

["Text" of press statement issued by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary of the Supreme People's Council, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, following the conclusion of the 16th session of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council held 16-18 January — read by announcer]

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council held its 16th session under Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The council discussed the current Arab and international situations and developments, the state's activities during 1983 in the political, economic and social levels, the execution of the plan of the council and the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and a report on the third local people councils' elections. It also discussed the development plans in various areas of the national economy and discussed the plan of the fourth year of the second 5-year amended development plan, and the state's general budget.

The council expressed its appreciation for the activities of the state organs during 1983 in closely following the implementation of development plans, and for the successful results which were achieved in completed projects. It also expressed pride in the masses' role in completing these projects. These efforts were the best form of celebrating the revolution's 20th anniversary and were a sincere expression of the masses' readiness to continue the struggle to build a new life.

The council also saluted the masses' initiative and contributions in financing and completing many social service projects all over the republic. These projects will act to accelerate development on a wider level. It also noted the role of the general union of the

republic's labor associations and other mass organizations in mobilizing laborers and toilers in carrying out these voluntary initiatives.

While discussing the 4th year of the development plan, the council stressed the need to pay more attention to the branches of production to increase their productivity by raising the efficiency of using the available means of production, to reduce expenses, to enable the branches to increase their profits and contributions, and to direct resources into the fields of agriculture, fisheries, industry, and construction. The council also emphasized the need for all government organs and state institutions to adopt austerity measures in order to reduce expenses and take appropriate measures to achieve tangible results in this regard.

The council also affirmed the need increase to revenues, to use public property wisely, to use all available resources and energies, to increase production, to improve working conditions, and to fight all symptoms of any malady that might harm revolutionary traditions. It affirmed that these tasks should be among the priority duties of government organs and mass organizations, and should be included in their work plans and programs.

While praising the role of popular supervision in preserving public property and detecting any faults, the council calls on the popular supervision committees to increase their role, because this is very important in our development experience.

On the third election campaign of the people's local councils, the council expressed satisfaction with the success of the elections and the democratic atmosphere in which they were conducted, and praised the masses' awareness of the local authorities and their role. It noted the enthusiasm and effective participation in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the revolution and the elections of the local people's councils as concrete proof of our masses' readiness to produce more to enhance their revolutionary experience and protect their accomplishments.

On the unity efforts between the two parts of the homeland, the council highly evaluated the efforts made during the past year, which included the convocation of the first session of the Yemeni council and its results, which yielded new unity agreements and coordination in various fields that serve the goals and principles of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions, and our Yemeni people's aspirations for unity and progress. The council also emphasized the need to continue the unity efforts and contacts and to implement agreements in various spheres.

On the situation in the region and the Arab and international developments, the council discussed various developments and expressed appreciation over the level of our foreign affairs activities on various issues, and over the fact that these activities represent our policy and stands. In this regard, the council emphasized the soundness of what was contained in the statement of the 11th session of the YSP Central Committee on internal developments, the situation in the region, and Arab and international developments.

While concluding its 16th session and approving the plan for the 4th year in the second 5-year amended development plan, the state's general budget plan, the import and export program and the activities of the council and the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council for the year 1984, the council calls on our masses to double their performance in implementing the plan of the 4th year of the development plan, in executing an overall campaign against illiteracy, in carrying out all the measures adopted in the economic field which aim at reducing expenses, increasing development achievements, and raising our national income by improving the material and moral conditions of our people.

Let the year of 1984 be a year of work for the sake of man's happiness and well-being, and the homeland's unity and progress!

## UAE

### Reduction in Export Trade With Iran Expected

*GF181338 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 18 Jan 84 p 1*

[By K. P. Nayar]

[Text] Re-exporters in Dubai are preparing to give up the once-lucrative Iranian market for good following new import restrictions imposed by the authorities there.

Shipping sources in Dubai said yesterday that authorities in Tehran had decided to encourage the shipment of goods direct from their country of origin and stop the practice of transhipment through third countries. This will deal a severe blow to Dubai's transit trade to Iran, which has been booming since the Islamic revolution four years ago.

It has come only weeks after the Iranian authorities decided to scrap a scheme which allowed non-resident Iranians to import goods worth one million riyals (Dh 50,000) for every year of their stay abroad. Non-residents are now allowed to take only six items, all of them agricultural and road construction equipment.

Since the downturn in re-exports to Iran following the outbreak of the Gulf conflict and import curbs by the authorities there, this scheme had become the primary vehicle for sending goods from Dubai to the Islamic Republic. Indeed, it was often alleged that non-residents were being financed by businessmen to avail themselves of facilities under the scheme as a way of reviving their trade across the Gulf.

Business sources, however, said yesterday that scrapping of the scheme had not crippled local businessmen the way import curbs a few years ago left them holding large stocks and huge debts. This is because imports in recent months have been limited and merchants have been cautious about getting goods for the Iranian market.

With the scrapping of the scheme, the only way non-resident Iranians can import goods is by taking advantage of the baggage rules, which allow them to take in items worth 50,000 riyals (Dh2,500). Of these, the first Dh1,000 worth of items are duty-free, but duty has to be paid on the remaining goods assessed at

Dh1,500. All items except video sets and goods produced in the U.S., Israel and South Africa are allowed in.

The allowance of Dh2,500 is considered by local businessmen as too insignificant to generate any worthwhile business.

Local merchants are, however, anxious to make the most of what is left of the Iranian market, which was once Dubai's primary re-export destination. For instance, they are now freely accepting unconfirmed letters of credit issued by Iranian importers for their purchases from Dubai.

At one time, local businessmen used to insist on cash payments for doing business with Iran, and in the case of documents it was necessary that these should be confirmed or guaranteed by an international bank through their offices in Europe.

The change on their part is also seen as a sign of growing confidence in the Iranian economy, which has improved in recent months. The strength of the Iranian economy is also being cited as a reason for discouraging transhipment through third countries as importers and state agencies gain greater confidence in their ability to deal directly with manufacturing countries.

As late as 1980, Iran had the first place among Dubai's re-export destinations with a total turnover of Dh1,278 million. The situation changed the next year when it yielded the first place to Saudi Arabia, and its share came down to Dh747 million. In 1982, Iran was in third place and re-exports plummeted to Dh190 million. In the first half of 1983, Iran occupied the fourth place, but its share rose dramatically to Dh252 million. Much of the purchases under the non-resident import scheme were not shown on the re-export graph as they were made locally. Many traders are, therefore, still waiting to see what impact its discontinuation would have on demand in the domestic market.

**Mubarak Receives Visiting Omani Minister**
*NC181333 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Omani Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas, now visiting Egypt. The meeting was attended by Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information.

In a statement following the meeting, the Omani minister said he conveyed the greetings of Sultan Qabus to President Mubarak and Oman's tenacious support for Egypt's position toward Arab issues. He added that President Mubarak has often reiterated Egypt's constant stance on and support of Arab issues. He praised the fraternal ties between Egypt and Oman.

**Cabinet Reviews Foreign, Domestic Issues**
*NC181859 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din. During the meeting, the Cabinet discussed the Ministry of Planning report regarding the implementation of economic and social development projects during the first half of the current fiscal year, the second year of the 5-year plan.

At the outset the Cabinet discussed the developments in the Palestinian issue, reiterating Egypt's support for the PLO's legitimate leadership under Yasir 'Arafat. The Cabinet also reviewed the positive developments in Egyptian-Jordanian relations and the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war. The Cabinet reiterated Egypt's continuing support for Iraq's rights. It also reviewed the Egyptian move to counter Israel's attempts to apply Israeli law to the West Bank, as well as the effects of those attempts on the peace march and their violation of the Geneva conventions.

**'Ali Meets Palestinian Delegation 18 Jan**
*NC182028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, tonight met with a Palestinian delegation, which included Nabil Sha'ath, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, head of the PLO office in Cairo; and Sa'id Kamal, PNC member.

The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and developments in the efforts toward a political settlement [of the Palestinian question].

**Text of Muhyi ad-Din KULL AL-'ARAB Interview**
*NC081028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Paris, 18 Jan (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has called for Arab unity and solidarity. He said that through our discord and differences we are giving our enemies a weapon that they are using against us. He warned that every day and every moment that pass are not in the interest of the Arabs. He also affirmed that there is no alternative to the unity of the Arab stand, the unity of the Arab ranks, and the unity of the Arab word.

In an interview with the Paris-based Arabic language magazine *KULL AL-'ARAB, Prime Minister Muhyi ad-Din affirmed that* the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak would inevitably produce positive results that could be translated into practical steps that would serve the Palestinian issue and the entire Arab cause in the near future.

In his interview with the magazine *KULL AL-'ARAB*, the prime minister affirmed that the future of the Palestinian issue must be decided by the Palestinians alone and without any interference by any state.

The prime minister described the dialogue between Egypt and some Arab capitals as positive. He said that this dialogue draws positions closer and coordinates them. He affirmed in this connection that Egypt believes that the unity of the Arab ranks and the unity of the Arab vision are an inevitable necessity at this historic juncture in the life of the Arab nation.

Concerning the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, the prime minister reaffirmed that Egypt firmly supports Iraq as far as armaments are concerned as well as politically in all international quarters. At the same time he affirmed that Egypt eagerly wants a peace agreement to be reached between the two sides.

The following is the text of Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din's interview with the magazine *KULL AL-'ARAB*:

Question: You went to receive 'Arafat on the open sea. I prefer to start from that point, which might seem purely emotional. How were your feelings then?

Answer: There were a lot of feelings, above all a deep feeling of happiness — happiness at receiving 'Arafat and happiness at the return of direct lines of communication with the legitimate palestinian leadership. As you know, it is true that this communication has not been interrupted over the past years in one way or another. Moreover, if I can say so, despite the ups and downs in this communication, Egypt has not ceased serving the Palestinian cause in the form of diligent work and enthusiatic and sincere action in all international political forums.

The Palestinian and Arab memory cannot forget that Egypt waged all its wars for the sake of the Palestinian cause, which has been the cause of the Arabs since 1948. We also need not prove the fateful link and association among the Egyptian people, the Palestinian people, and the entire Arab nation. The Egyptian people have proved with sweat and blood their true affiliation with and deep faith in the course of their great history.

Because I know that in the conscience of the Egyptian people Yasir 'Arafat represents the symbol of the Palestinian cause, this feeling was translated into overwhelming happiness when I received this living symbol, particularly since I was certain that this new direct contact between the legitimate leadership of the

PLO and Arab struggler President Husni Mubarak, who believes in the Arab cause to the utmost extent, would inevitably produce positive results that could be translated into practical steps that would serve the Palestinian issue and the entire Arab cause in the near future.

Question: Following this meeting, there will undoubtedly be major changes that will affect more than one aspect as well as relations in the Arab area. How do you think these changes will affect the future treatment of the Palestinian issue?

Answer: There is a dialogue taking place now within the Palestinian family, a dialogue which aims to rearrange the house and devise a Palestinian strategy for the coming phase. This was needed as well as appropriate following the departure from Tripoli and the recent changes. The future outlook on the Palestinian issue should be purely from the Palestinian point of view without any interference by any other country.

This Palestinian dialogue may take 1 or 2 months, and regardless of its outcome — a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue between Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn based on the available resolutions or initiatives, such as the Fes initiative, or any other initiative suitable for dialogue and discussion — it constitutes the first essential step in solving the Palestinian issue. Convinced that the need exists for a purely Palestinian outlook to solve the Palestinian issue, we have to wait until this internal Palestinian dialogue crystallyzes into a definite approach.

Question: How would this reflect on Egyptian-Arab relations?

Answer: This does not reflect directly on Egyptian-Arab relations. An Egyptian-Arab dialogue has been going on for 2 years — a dialogue between Egypt and some Arab capitals. Briefly, this dialogue can be described as positive. It promotes these relations although it has not yet culminated in the form of diplomatic restoration — but no one can say that there is any rush about this legal formality.

This dialogue certainly helps to dovetail our viewpoints. We are seeking a common Arab outlook and a strong Arab unity. We regard Arab unity and common vision as mandatory at this historical phase in the life of Arab people.

Question: When I asked about the impact of the Egyptian-Palestinian relations on the Egyptian-Arab relations, I had another thing in mind. Egypt has been boycotted by the Arab countries because of its stand on the Palestinian issue. So, if the legitimate Palestinian leadership established direct and open lines for meeting, movement, and dialogue with Egypt's leadership, would this not mean that the others should take a similar course after the Palestinians themselves have mended their fences.

Answer: This is a matter which should be addressed to the other Arab countries.

Question: How will this affect Egyptian-Israeli relations?

Answer: Israel's prime minister has said that the Egyptian stand interferes with the [Camp David] accords and the agreements. In our view, these agreements do not affect the freedom of Egyptian decisionmaking — not now and not in the future. Besides, the United States, which participated in the Egyptian-Israeli accords, has confirmed that this agreement does not affect Egypt's freedom to act in both dialogue and moves.

Question: With regard to the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, there were official Egyptian views which belittled its effects while other official Egyptian views stressed its proper significance. What is the current Egyptian position, the current Egyptian view of the agreement?

Answer: In his first statement President Mubarak denounced the agreement and thought that it might impede the peace process. This was the Egyptian Government's position as expressed in its official statement to the People's Assembly. We requested clarifications from the United States, and the immediate U.S. response was: There is nothing new.

The relations between us and Israel are special and we do not deny that. The question of the new Joint Military Committee is just an organizational matter that does not affect the relations between us and some of the Arab states, and it does not affect our sustained efforts to achieve peace in the area. Then there is the message which President Mubarak sent to President Reagan and President Reagan's reply to it. There were also meetings with Shultz. The various U.S. responses stressed the United States' eagerness to maintain its Arab relations on the one hand and to promote the peace efforts on the other.

Nevertheless, what matters here is implementation. Take for example President Mubarak's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. According to the agreement, the U.S. and Israeli positions were supposed to be identical. But the opposite happened. The United States welcomed the meeting whereas the Israeli position considered it as a violation of the peace treaty.

Question: It is possible to explain this position only as a result of the Egyptian reaction to the agreement, which was sharper than expected by the Americans?

Answer: I am speaking about the final result or the final product. There is a contradiction between the U.S. position and the Israeli position on the visit. I have said that what matters is implementation. So, let us see what will happen in the coming stage, and let us see the indications which this implementation will give.

Question: I would like to dwell a little on the question of Ra's Banas. More than one unidentical — and I do not say conflicting — statement has been issued...

Answer: How?

Question: It was said, for example, that the U.S. Congress approved the allocation of $96 million, then it was said that it approved $46 million, and then it was said that the talks stumbled and finally stopped. Recently, it has been reported that the talks have been resumed. Permit me to ask you about all this background. Have the Americans been given facilities at Ra's Banas, or is the dialogue concerning these facilities continuing?

Answer: The facilities are not connected with Ra's Banas or anywhere else. They are connected with the Egyptian Government's approval on the basis that these facilities serve the Arab interests. They must be approved by Egypt. There is a big difference between "facilities" and a "base." The latter means the presence of the forces of one state on the territory of another. This is totally rejected by Egypt out of hand. With regard to Ra's Banas, Egypt wants it to be developed, but for its own use. If U.S. aid — such as the economic aid which Egypt receives — is granted to achieve this, then the development of Ra's Banas is possible. But as for Ra's Banas being turned into a U.S. base, we say no. We build bases for the Egyptian Armed Forces, not for any other forces.

Question: You mean this is not to furnish a site ready for use by the U.S. forces?

Answer: No. No. Regarding the facilities, this is a political decision to be made at the appropriate moment in view of certain operations under specific circumstances. Regarding the maneuvers, it is a matter of a joint exercise which benefits the Egyptian forces in the same way that it benefits the other forces.

Question: Regarding the recent U.S.-Israeli developments pertaining to the strategic agreement, do they not affect Egypt's decision regarding Ra's Banas?

Answer: The timing depends on the Egyptian leadership, which makes its decisions at the appropriate moment and in view of Egyptian interests.

Question: It is obvious that Egypt is doing its best to balance the burdens of its development on the one hand with its national security interests on the other. However, the concept of diversifying the sources of weaponry is not being fully applied. For example, Egypt obtains weapons from the United States at 16 percent interest while it used to obtain weapons from the Soviets at no more than 2 percent interest — with even a cancellation of up to 50 percent of the corresponding debt. Why, then, do you not fully apply the concept of diversification of sources?

Answer: The question of diversifying the sources of weaponry is rather large. I do not want to concentrate solely on the issue of diversification, but also on that of manufacture. Egypt is presently encouraging military production on a satisfactory scale — mind you, I am not saying a complete scale. You know how sophisticated the issue of weapons production is. However, we have been doing fine in military production — a matter which represents one of our government's goals — and we hope to expand it even more in the near future.

Regarding arms purchases, there is no doubt that arms cooperation is connected to political circumstances. You know, when our relations with the Soviet Union were of certain form, it used to supply us with arms. There were some difficulties involved regarding some deals, spare parts, and certain demands. The political leadership then made certain decisions at a certain stage — the [expulsion of] the Soviet advisers, then the October [1973] victory, then the realization of peace. What I mean by diversification is that we do not rely solely on the United States. For example, we have our arms relations with France, we obtain weapons from Spain and Italy, and we obtain spare parts for the weapons that we already have from other countries in order to develop and improve these weapons.

Our ambassador has not yet returned to Moscow, and the Soviet ambassador has not returend to Cairo. This undoubtedly affects the arms decision. It cannot be made separately from other bilateral issues. For almost 10 years we have followed a certain procedure for purchasing arms, and the situation has not yet changed in a way that would make us change our outlook on the purchasing process.

Question: What I mean is that recent events proved that Egypt needs an independent force for its protection. This is what President Mubarak has said.

Answer: Yes, and this is what we are doing.

Question: What about those remarks on the quanitity of U.S. arms?

Answer: When Egypt thinks about its security and defense capabilities, it takes into consideration its special relations with Sudan and the Arab brothers. I can clearly state that we have complete confidence in the Egyptian military and its capabilities.

Question: Am I to conclude from this that Egypt is still eager to diversify its sources of weapons?

Answer: Yes. Yes.

Question: It has been said there is an Egyptian-Romanian crisis over the tank deal — that Romania has only shipped 60 tanks.

Answer: No, there is no crisis. Our relations with Romania are solid and good. Besides, there are excellent relations between Presidents Ceausescu and Husni Mubarak.

Question: Do I understand from this that the deal has been concluded?

Answer: Irrespective of the deals — I do not only mean the arms deals, but also the trade, industrial, and many others, some big ones between us and Romania — bilateral relations between us are good, and they enable us to overcome any difficulties which may confront these relations.

Question: Is there any change in the Egyptian position on the Iraqi-Iranian war?

Answer: There is no change. Our position toward Iraq, politically and militarily, in all international forums, is firm. We insist on a peace agreement. There are many organizations which have expressed their readiness to mediate, such as the Islamic Conference, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations. All of them made good proposals on the basis of which a dialogue was supposed to start between Iran And Iraq. However, regrettably, Iran has repeatedly made it known that it does not want to even consider these proposals to stop the shedding of Islamic blood. This is Egypt's position toward Iraq, and it is a principled one.

Question: With regard to the Palestinian issue, it has been reported that Egypt wants to raise the Egyptian-French initiative once again, that this is being done with Egyptian-Palestinian agreement, and that the tour of Dr Usamah al-Baz, the director of President Mubarak's office for political affairs, is connected with this subject. The question is: Has Egypt secured the initiative against a new U.S. veto?

Answer: The subject is still being examined. As I have said, the idea is not submitting an initiative for the sake of submitting an initiative, but when an initiative is submitted, one must be sure that the Security Council will unanimously approve it. Otherwise, if there is objection to it, the loss to the issue will be greater than the gain.

The dialogue concerning this initiative has been going on for some time. It is accepted in form [min hayth ash-shakl]. But the problem lies in making preparations for and in the timing of its submission in order to ensure tis passage and turning it into an effective resolution. The matter is still at this point.

Question: The Egyptian Foreign Ministry under secretary visited Israel last week. What is the significance of this visit at this time, and what are its results? No visits have taken place for a long time, and even the visit by David Kimche, the director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, to Egypt about 2 months ago was to exchang views on many outstanding issues.

Answer: In return for this visit, Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid went to Israel to discuss a number of issues. So far there is no final assessment of Kimche's visit or of Ash-Shafi'i's visit to make it possible to determine the course in the coming stage.

Question: Do I understand from this that the relations are maintaining their recent status?

Answer: Relations are the same as they were. The return of the Egyptian ambassador remains the principal demand of the other side, and there is also the problem of Tabah.

Question: Is there anything new on the Tabah arbitration issue?

Answer: There is nothing new. We had met as a committe, and then the Israelis asked that the committee go to Jerusalem. We refused. There is an attempt to pursue the issue of trade. There is no trade activity now. Generally speaking, there is nothing new.

Question: Permit me to return to the Egyptian arena. You yourself have had a patriotic background since the forties. You were also involved in the Nasirite experiment. Nevertheless, some people say that there is a rivalry between you and the opposition. How do you explain this, what are the reasons for it, and how is it possible to overcome it?

Answer: Is it a personal or political rivalry? I do not imagine that there is personal rivalry between me and the opposition, and I hope there will not be one, frankly, because many opposition party leaders are personal friends of mine, and I cherish this friendship.

I hope they are as proud of this friendship as I am. If, as they say, the democratic game requires that there is opinion and counteropinion, then it is natural that we have an opinion and that they oppose this opinion. Otherwise, for what other purpose does a majority party rule, and other parties submit counteropinions, criticize, support, or oppose?

Therefore, the term "rivalry" is very strong, but the term "opposition" [is more fitting], as is the case in any multiparty system in the world in which a party or a coalition rules in the people's interest, without rivalry. When a certain opinion is acceptable to the masses, they choose the party closest to their heart and mind to rule, and the other party watches the ruling party through legal channels.

Allow me to add: How can rivalry be bypassed? It cannot be bypassed because the entire democratic game would then be bypassed, but it is not a personal rivalry.

Question: Does this mean the Prime Minister is prepared for a direct dialogue between the Democratic Party and the opposition?

Answer: The dialogue is under way and continuing. For example, just yesterday we concluded a week-long debate on the government' statement to the People's Assembly in which the government and opposition deputies commented on the statement. This is dialogue. There is dialogue in the opposition press; that is a form of dialogue.

Question: I mean direct party dialogue?

Answer: What do you mean by direct party dialogue? Does it mean that we sit together face-to-face in a political discussion or debate? This does not usually happen, even abroad. Perhaps in the case of elections, a single debate might occur between the leaders of two parties in some states. But as for a direct political dialogue in the form of a debate every single week or every single month, I am not aware that this is being applied anywhere in the world. However, the dialogue is continuing on all levels and is a must because through it new ideas are born.

Question: It has been rumored that you will change your election constituency and will run in the elections against Kahlid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, in his constituency.

Answer: That is totally untrue. I am sorry to say that this is a case of inaccurate reporting by some, but not all, opposition newspapers. I will remain in my constituency, which I visited recently.

Question: There is a phenomenon that occurred in the Consultative Council elections which was repeated in the People's Assembly elections in the Muharrim Bey constituency in Alexandria. Despite strong competion among the parties, there was a small turnout of voters, not more than 10 percent.

Answer: This is an important question. However, I want to say that the 51 percent turnout in the Consultative Council elections is a very suitable figure for several reasons. First, there are 3

million Egyptian abroad. Second, the turnout in urban areas and cities in Egypt's parliamentary life has not exceeded 25-30 percent since 1923; it may be as low as 15 percent. However, in the rural areas the turnout might reach 80 percent.

This turnout in the Consultative Council elections is not a strange or abnormal percentage. As for the turnout in the Muharram Bey constituency, which was 8 percent, I do not want to say it is a normal percentage, but let us note that it is an urban constituency. The turnout in this constituency during the last general elections was about the same or a little more. Therefore, figures and percentages are not causes for astonishement or surprise.

Question: The first year of the 5-year development plan has elapsed. May we discuss the economic features of that year?

Answer: The important figures in this respect, for example, say the development process in Egypt increased by 7.6 percent, production on the whole increased by roughly 2.58 billion pounds, local national production increased by approximately about 1 billion pounds, and 98.8 percent of the plan's targets were achieved. As for the balance of payments deficit, it dropped from 2.78 billion pounds to 1.38 billion pounds. The general budget deficit dropped from 2 billion pounds last year to 1.4 billion pounds.

An economist presented with all those figures will feel that progress is being made. No economic miracles can be achieved in 1 year, but Egypt is proceeding along the right course in its economic reform.

Question: Despite the improvement as expressed in figures, the ordinary Egyptian has not felt it in his daily life.

Answer: Would an economic analyst expect the revenue and returns [al-'a'id wa al-mardud] to be felt by the masses? This is difficult. The average annual income in Egypt is around $500. It is a very low income compared to others. If the increase would approximate 8 percent, then the amount [of this average income] would increase by about $40. That amount is intangible and cannot entail a reduction in commodity prices and improvements in sewerage, water supply, communications, and housing. I think it impossible by any criteria, not only in Egypt but in the whole world which is facing an economic problem.

The United States itself is suffering from the problem of 10 million unemployed workers. In France, the value of the franc has dropped 50 percent. Each country has its problems, but the solution of them is each country's own affair. The important thing is that there be control over the economic system through a clear plan, as we have explained, and that there be progress and no further exacerbation of problems.

Question: From the beginning, the government has been saying that it wishes to ease the burden on the broad productive social base?

Answer: Yes. That is the government's main objective. We are still trying to improve the lot of the masses by increasing production and raising income. The subsidy system still exists and that is one of the three means we apply for the sake of that group of people to enable them to confront the burdens of living.

Question: I have a question regarding the entrance of the new WAFD Party on the Egyptian political map. Now that this has become legal, how do you view its effects on the future of Egyptian policy?

Answer: I do not wish to anticipate events with regard to analyzing the WAFD Party's entry into the political field. I will leave this to the future. However, we now welcome the WAFD Party into the Egyptian political arena after the court rejected the appeal. Competition on this map will be honest, within the limits of the law, and without quarrel, as I said previously. Prediction at this point would be to anticipate events. The arena is full of dangers and the masses are capable of differentiating and electing the party capable of serving them and achieving their aims.

Question: If I asked you what achievement you wish you had accomplished in 1983, what would you say?

Answer: Life has taught me not to be a dreamer. Therefore, through long and diversified experience, and through the use of that experience in politics and public life, I am now able to gauge executive capabilities, and thus the capability of decisionmaking.

It is difficult for me to say that I wish I had accomplished a specific achievement in 1983 and that this was however not destined to see the light of day. However, what I constantly wish for — and this is not confined to 1983 — is further enthusiasm, capability for achievement, and faithfulness and loyalty to the homeland. Those things represent a great stride and distinct move toward resolving the greater portion of the problems and difficulties currently facing us.

Obviously, we need greater dedication — a flowing and driving dedication to make sacrifices. It is absolutely necessary to have such an ability, as well as the ability to obtain technology and enjoy technical evolution.

Question: Undoubtedly, this is connected with the climate. Perhaps Egypt's climate was quite different in a recent period. Therefore, the attitude is also different now.

Answer: This is indeed the new situation and what we want to see strengthened and deepened through action and dedication.

Question: If I asked you to address an open letter to someone, and left the choice of the addressee to you, to whom would you send it and what would you write at this time?

Answer: I would choose to address it to the Arab Nation. I would clearly say in the letter: Arab Nation, close your ranks and unite your voices. You have had enough dissension, division, and fragmentation. We ourselves give our enemies the weapons that they brandish against us through our disarray and differences. When we talk to any foreigner on the Arab cause, the question the foreigner always has ready is: Where is the Arab will or united Arab voice to which we could listen, or with which we could agree?

Every day as well as every moment that passes is not to our benefit because with every new day, a new political conflagration occurs to rivet the world's attention on something very remote from that to which we would like to attract the world's attention. There is no course other than a united Arab stand, rank, and voice.

Question: Do you believe there is another question that I should have asked you but did not ask?

Answer: I leave the choice to you. However, I believe we have covered all aspects of the present situation, including its domestic and external aspects.

## Al-AHRAM Assesses Area Prospects in 1984

*PM181500 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jan 84 p 1,3*

[Part I Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "We, the United States, and the Arabs"]

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak was not overestimating the situation when he clearly said that 1984 will be a decisive year in the destiny of the whole Arab cause. Indeed, the signs for this year indicated this and probably more even before it began.

As we all know, 1984 is the year of the U.S. elections. We have learned, by reading U.S. history since the emergence of the United States as a major power influencing the world balances after World War II, that the United States subjects many of its political stands to election considerations during an election year. Election considerations are known to take account of the considerable importance of the Jewish vote and money that finances election campaigns, and the strength of the Jewish lobby as a substantial pressure group. This remains so regardless of whatever has been said about changes in the political structure of U.S. society in the past years.

Reading the history of the United States has also taught us that the U.S. President, regardless of his name and party, is less free in his actions and less capable of taking historical decisions on international problems during the last months of his presidential term than he would normally be during his second term of office, when he no longer has to take account of election considerations and is therefore more capable of adopting just stands.

The year 1984 begins with the United States and Israel linked by a strategic pact and committed to act according to it, which, in the opinion of experts, seriously jeopardizes the progress toward achieving a just political settlement of the problems of the area.This is because the strategic tie necessarily imposes restrictions on U.S. actions toward the area's problems in that the United States is restricted in its ability to take steps which Israel does not endorse. Thus we begin this decisive year under the shadow of an hardline Israeli stance toward Reagan's initiative and Israeli intransigence and rejection of any change in the U.S. stand that might in any way bring the possibilities of Jordanian-Palestinian agreement closer.

Although we admit that in these historical conditions there are many negative aspects in the Arab attitude that delay the opportunities for reaching a solution and that we concentrate on the intransigence and rigidity of the Israeli stand, which hinders every attempt at solutions, we also need to take a long look at the U.S. attitude toward the area's problems in light of all these considerations and discuss its positive and negative aspects.

We need to pause with our friend to discuss matters with him and not confront him, and to conduct a dialogue rather clash. We — that is, Egypt and the United States — are partners in the great mission that still needs great efforts, namely, the achievement of peace and establishment of justice in the area.

Undoubtedly we are partners, but even partners differ in their views and contributions to the achievement of the common objective.There are always areas of agreement between us and the United States, as well as differences in views and over the efforts required for the achievement of the common goal. Our greatest effort should concentrate on widening the areas of agreement and narrowing those of disagreement.

We certainly agree with the United States in any sincere effort to achieve peace and stability in the area and the restoration of Arab rights, most important among them being Palestinian rights. We disagree with it over all the political stands that do not serve that objective or pave the way to it.

We must now note that the areas of agreement and disagreement between us are something quite natural. Agreement and disagreement basically stem from the fact that each of us has a different view of his interest in this sensitive part of the world. This is necessary and essential.

The political view of the security of the area is, for example, one of the basic principles of the policies pursued toward the area. The Egyptian view of the area's security is fundamentally based on several considerations, the most important of them being:

A guarantee of comprehensive peace in the area must be based on achieving and considering a balance within which each country in the region would feel secure. Therefore, the Egyptian view of stability and safety in the area perceives the attempts to enable one country of the area to overpower the rest by giving it greater amounts of arms or allowing its military strength to grow disproportionately in comparison with that of the other region's countries as a serious disturbance of balance that prompts the other countries to seek arms from any source for self-defense and in defense of their interests.

This would open the door to a dangerous arms race in the area which would gradually turn it into an arsenal of arms from the Eastern and Western blocs and would immediately transform it into a powder keg likely to explode at any moment.

The achievement of stability necessitates keeping the area away from international polarization and the attempts to drag it into spheres of influence. Acute polarization of the area is a stumbling block to solving its existing problems, the most important being the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the crux of which is the Palestine problem. It also requires that no country or regional party be allowed to be linked to a superpower by a strategic tie.

Achievement of that stability will remain an unrealistic dream until a comprehensive peace established on a strong basis of justice has been achieved.

Achievement of the desired stability also requires equal economic relations between the countries of the area, control of their own resources with the aim of utilizing them in the service of their own peoples, and the guaranteed right of these peoples to control their own destiny and be able to shape their lives in their own territories with total freedom and without foreign interference.

Egypt's view of the security of the area stems from its belief of the need to adhere to its pan-Arab [Qawmiyah] responsibility toward the Arab nation. Egypt has demonstrated this belief in many situations, the most recent being its ensuring the safety of the Palestinian fighters leaving Tripoli, placing the Egyptian arms industry in the service of the Arab capability, and Egypt's constant readiness to support the Arab defense capability.

This is the Egyptian view of the areas's security. In this regard there are bound to be areas of difference between us and the U.S. strategic view of the area's security. It is natural for this difference to be reflected in certain U.S. attitudes toward countries in the area. It is also natural that Egypt should adhere to its view, and at the same time, insist on bringing the views closer.

As a result of the difference in views, we can outline the areas of basic difference between us and the United States regarding the problems of the area, particularly at this critical time. This will be discussed next week.

**AL-AHRAM on Absenteeism at Islamic Summit**
*NC190711 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-AHRAM* comments editorially on the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca, asking whether it has been able to translate the concept of Islam for peace into reality. *AL-AHRAM* affirms, in answering this question, that there is no question that Islam is a religion of peace, even a religion of work to establish peace based on right, justice, and equality and the protection of God's rights. However, this conference in particular has been blemished by the absence of several Islamic heads of states who have a role in peace problems and issues.

*AL-AHRAM* adds: It is regrettable that some of these absentees have their own view regarding some current issues to which they are a party. It is true that some states have sent lower-level delegations, but the absence of the major leaders, although they are involved in current problems or are a direct party to this or that issue, is in itself proof to the observing world of a lack of seriousness, perseverance, and the required determination.

*AL-AHRAM* notes the absence of Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi, and Khomeyni, although each of them has a hand in what has been taking place at the conference. Several proposals and compromises have been foiled in advance because of their absence, even if they have delegated power to their representatives.

Concluding, *AL-AHRAM* asks: What image can the world have of the Islamic nations in view of this absenteeism? Certainly, it is a shaky image that only highlights the differences and disputes among the Islamic states.

### Sources Deny Fall of Panjwin to Iran

*JN181757 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Excerpt] A responsible Iraqi source told our radio this afternoon that Tehran's announcement on the presence of its forces in Panjwin is baseless. He stressed that the bodies of the Iranians have been frozen in the area's mountains since recent battles. He added that what Tehran announces is only an attempt to conceal its repeated military failure at the battlefronts.

An Iraqi military sources in the I Army Corps, which is stationed in the northern sector where the township of Panjwin is located, told us that no military operations have been carried out in the Panjwin area since the failure of the (previous) Iranian offensive. He added: The military situation at the battlefronts there is stable. Our forces are in full control of the area and there has been absolutely no change in positions.

### Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,345

*JN181818 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Communique No 1,345 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 18 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of Iraq's right to sovereignty, honor, and progress, the brave sons of our people and army continue their courageous operations against the forces of the ambitious Khomeyniite enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our capable warplanes intercepted two enemy fighter aircraft, which raided a residential area in the Chuwartah region in the As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. As a result of a dogfight with the enemy aircraft, our warplanes were able to down one of the two enemy fighter aircraft which was seen crashing in flames inside Iranian territory; the second enemy aircraft fled. All our airplanes returned safely to base, praise be to God. As a result of the treacherous enemy raid, 3 houses were destroyed, 2 children were martyred, and 18 civilians in the residential area were wounded.

2. One of our forward units sighted a group of enemy personel oposite its positions in the northern sector of the operational theater and opened fire from its various weapons on the enemy, killing two enemy soldiers and forcing the others to flee.

3. One of our forward units opened fire with its various weapons on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the operational theater, killing one soldier and destroying one observation post and one stockpile.

4. One observation post in the Maysan operational sector was destroyed.

5. The clique of rancor and backwardness ruling in Iran shelled the cities of Basra and Mandali and their environs as well as the villages of Ash-Shihabi and Zurbatiyah with artillery, demolishing two houses in Ash-Shihabi and damaging some civilian establishments in the other cities and villages.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 January 1984

### Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan Interviewed

*NC190910 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, has stated: We have great hopes that the Arabs will view Egypt's stand seriously.

In a statement in today's issue of the weekly magazine *AL-MUSAWWAR* he said: We in Iraq — government and party — consider Egypt's return to the Arab nation as a primary pan-Arab objective. He added that President Husni Mubarak has done his part in removing [the Arabs'] touchiness and it only remains for us to forget it.

Ramadan noted that in his meeting with President Husni Mubarak during his recent visit to Egypt, he realized that Mubarak was aware of the circumstances and details of the Iraqi-Iranian war. He mentioned that President Mubarak had expressed Egypt's readiness to give Iraq as much support as possible.

Ramadan thanked Egypt for its diplomatic drive and its brotherly activity in favor of the Iraqi and Arab stands. He explained that President Mubarak welcomed Iraq's desire to consolidate cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Ramadan expressed hope that the Palestinian revolution leadership would study the stage through which it had passed with an open mind and with a pan-Arab perspective, without preconceptions and resentment, and that it would courageously correct the mistakes that it had made.

The Iraqi official blamed both the United States and the Soviet Union for the continuation of the Gulf war because they have not played the positive role they should have, being the two states with international responsibilities.

Answering a question about the lack of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States since 1967, Ramadan said: We affirm that not having relations is not natural; it is natural for Iraq to establish relations with all the states of the world. As for the rapprochement-estrangement process, this is connected with our national and pan-Arab issues. He explained that if our interests dictate that these relations be restored, we will not hesitate to do so.

Concluding his statement, Ramadan said that world public opinion toward the Iraqi-Iranian war improved considerably recently, especially after Iran exposed its ambitions in Iraq and the Gulf.

### House of Representatives Fills Vacant Seats

*JN181251 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The House of Representatives held a session today under Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz and in the presence of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat and the Cabinet members. In implementation of Article 88 of the Constitution, the following have been elected to fill the 7 vacant West Bank seats:

Engineer Dawud Muhammad Dawud for the Jerusalem district with 33 votes.

Muhammad Dhuwayyib with 39 votes and Ribhi Mustafa with 38 votes for the Bethlehem district.

Fayyad Jarar with 33 votes and Ma'ruf Salim Rabba' with 31 votes for the Janin district.

Ziyad Muhammad Yunis with 35 votes for the Tulkarm district.

Dr Musa Abu Ghawsh for the Ramallah district by an absolute majority.

#### Prime Minister Comments

*JN181722 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat commented on the results of the House of Representatives elections by saying: The results reflect the will of the House of Representatives. The representatives have exercised their right in complete freedom and responsible democracy, for which we are glad. This matter conforms totally with the Constitution, the law on elections, and the government's trend with regard to establishing the bases of constitutional life. 'Ubaydat added that the new members of the House of Representatives will exercise their right after they are sworn in according to the formal procedures which the House of Representatives will carry out.

Asked about the participation of women in elections, 'Ubaydat said that women are entitled to exercise their electoral rights in the House of Representatives and, accordingly, the law on elections does not require any amendment in order to grant this right to women.

#### House Speaker's Remarks

*JN181858 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] In a statement to PETRA-JNA, Speaker of the House of Representatives 'Akif al-Fayiz expressed his delight over the conduct of the elections and said: I was very happy to see the amicable spirit that prevailed among the nominees. The House of Prepresentatives has worked according to Article 88 of the Constitution. I pray to Almighty God to bring success to the elected representatives. I congratulate them on the confidence they have gained in the elections today.

Answering a question about the date for the elections to fill the vacant East Bank seats, Al-Fayiz said that the government will take the necessary measures for conducting these elections during the next 2 months.

### Information Minister Defines Media Policy

*JN181656 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Amman — Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf has defined the ministry's policy in light of the principles mentioned in the royal letter of designation, the speech from the throne, and His Majesty King Husayn's directives. This policy aims at keeping our news media credible, objective, and rational and at encouraging citizens to participate collectively in Jordan's development and progress. It also aims at spreading the spirit of benevolence and national pride.

During a press conference held at the Intercontinental Hotel today attended by journalists representing various local, Arab, and international news media, Mrs Sharaf said that the general principles on which the ministry's policy will be based emanate from the principle of respecting the Jordanian citizen and his intellect and enlightenment. We have faith in the enlightenment and maturity of the Jordanian community and in two-way direct contacts, as well as in opening channels without any complications. Such contacts will certainly lead to continued consultation and coordination and to a common endeavor to upgrade the news media with self-control. Such things are required for Jordan's interests, development, and progress.

Mrs Sharaf added that the ministry is aware of the importance of credibility in the news media. It will pursue efforts to stress credibility in its organs, in cooperation with the national press. The ministry is also aware of the role of the news media not only as means of reporting but also of developing the mentality of our generations, improving their thinking, and directing their minds toward positivism and true scientific analysis far away from hypocrisy and close to the pursuit of facts.

#### Government Objectives Outlined

*JN182130 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] Mrs Sharaf affirmed that the ministry is aware of the importance of dynamics in the news media and will endeavor to encourage this aspect in its organs and help the national organs, within the available capabilities. Furthermore, the ministry is fully aware of the importance of Arab media aborad and the shortage from which we are suffering in this regard. Therefore, the ministry will pursue efforts to fill this gap as much as possible and will always keep the channels of communication open with Arab and foreign news correspondents in Jordan. The ministry will continue to get to know, be friendly with, and respect those who play a role in influencing world public opinion.

Mrs Sharaf explained the bases of the new government and its objectives as specified in the royal letter of designation and the speech from the throne. They are as follows.

1. Strengthening constitutional and parliamentary life in its new march and striving to develop the democratic experience and sense of participation.

2. Confirming the pan-Arab commitment to the destiny and interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, who should work together to achieve the national and pan-Arab aspirations. Stemming from this point, the government will pursue a responsible dialogue with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in order to reach a formula of joint action and common march.

3. Continuing action to restore, boster, and strengthen Arab solidarity.

4. Supporting fraternal Iraq in its defensive war against aggression, massing Arab support for Iraq, and supporting it for the principles that it declares in order to solve the conflict.

5. Supporting Lebanese reconciliation and the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon's territory.

6. Continuing to endeavor to achieve international cooperation and extending the hand of cooperation and friendship to world countries in order to safeguard world peace and build a more balanced world economy, in addition to playing an active role in the international arena to serve our political, economic, and cultural issues.

7. Strengthening the Jordanian Armed Forces to enable them to defend the homeland and protect its security, stability, and independence.

8. Concentrating on developing the educational programs and curricula to meet the requirements of the educational march, move with the spirit of the age toward progress and development, and strengthen affiliation to heritage and roots.

9. Strengthening economic achievements and endeavoring to bolster all bases of the national economy in order to protect it from the complications that might occur as a result of the world economic crisis.

10. Encouraging the participation of every capable, committed, and enlightened citizen in the march. Accordingly, the government will pay attention to the integrated social development of the Jordanian citizen.

### Ties With PLO, Reagan Plan

*JN190804 Ammman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] At her press conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman today, Jordanian Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf answered journalists' questions.

Answering a question about Jordan's visualization of the formula for Jordanian-Palestinian relations, she said: We will seek consultations with the PLO to define the landmarks of the march. These consultations will determine the method of dealing with it. We cannot determine this method prior to talks with the PLO. She reiterated that the Jordanian visualization is obvious to everyone and said: In all our efforts we are endeavoring to achieve the objectives that will regain the land and fulfil the rights of the Palesitnian people to their territories and destiny.

Concerning the extent of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people and whether this representation conflicts with the return of parliamentary life to Jordan, Mrs Sharaf said: This representation includes everything. It includes the acceptance or nonacceptance of the decision that is related to the future of the Palestinian people and the type of political entity these people are seeking to achieve. It also includes the representation of the Palestinians on the international level. This representation is the umbrella under which the Palestinians' political entity is protected. She added that Jordan is currently acting according to the constitutional formula and is wholely concerned about the Palestine question's numerous aspects, because the final arrangement of this question will be reflected on Jordan — the Arab country closest to the Palestine question. She said: We and the PLO have common interests and objectives and we will work together to find a suitable solution to this question. She added that the Palestinians' representation within the Jordanian constitutional formula will not affect the PLO's legitimacy and its determination of the Palestinian political entity after liberating the occupied territories.

Asked whether the new government has been formed to initiate talks with the PLO, Mrs Sharaf said: Every Jordanian government is a government to negotiate with the PLO. The PLO that we recognize is that which represents the Palestinian majority and that which the Rabat summit conference considered the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is the organization led by Yasir 'Arafat.

Regarding the actual formula through which Jordan and the PLO can work together, Mrs Sharaf said: This formula is the one that takes into consideration the interests of the Jordanians and the Palestinians. It is a formula of cooperation, coordination, and determination of roles in the peace process that aims at finding a solution to the Palestine question — a formula that defines authority, responsibility, and stands.

Regarding whether the return of parliamentary life has an integrated political dimension on the political facts and visualizations which affect the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels, Mrs Sharaf said: The return of parliamentary life to Jordan is an internal constitutional procedure. It is the Jordanian citizen's natural return to his right to participate through his democratic institutions in the political and constitutional life of the country. The previous situation was not natural and was imposed on us by circumstances. The return of parliamentary life as in the past is necessary. We in Jordan have a constitutional formula that was drawn up by the free will of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples on the two banks of Jordan, when both peoples approved the unity of the two banks 1950.

However, the Israeli occupation of the West Bank has hampered the development of this formula, in terms of accepting or rejecting it, and thus no move can be made outside this formula.

Asked about Jordan's current stand on President Reagan's initiative, Mrs Sharaf said: The initiative included two main conditions: full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and halting the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. But the United States did not implement either of these two conditions. Thus, we cannot pursue President Reagan's plan so long as these two conditions are not implemented. Once these two conditions are fulfilled, we will take a stand accordingly. But now we cannot take stands on presumptions that may or may not happen.

## Briefs

**Saudi Loan** — Amman, 16 Jan (WAKH) — The Saudi development fund has approved a loan of Sr 80 million for Jordan to finance a number of educational projects in the Arab country. The loan agreement was signed here last night by the fund's vice-chairman Muhammad as-Sughayr and Jordanian Finance Minister Dr Hanna Awdah. As-Saghayr arrived in Amman last Saturday and had talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and means of enhancing cooperations between the two countries. [Text][Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 83 GF]

## Aftermath of University President Assassination

### Student Movement Restrictions Lifted

*NC181351 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1335 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] A security source has informed us that the cordon imposed around the American University campus has been lifted and that students can now move freely about.

### Lebanese Forces Denounce Shooting

*NC181813 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Statement by the "Lebanese Forces' spokesman" on 18 January — read by announcer]

[Text] We strongly denounce the assassination of Dr Malcolm Kerr [American University of Beirut president], as well as the kidnapping of the Saudi consul and the threats to kill him, because they do not reflect the ethics and principles of the Lebanese people and only serve the interests of Lebanon's enemies.

These enemies are well-known to the United States and Saudi Arabia, as well as to France, whose cultural attache's wife was attacked 2 days ago. These enemies do not conceal their identity but daily declare that they oppose the presence and role of the United States, threatening it by various means. Such threats are made on behalf of Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian officials and through their agents and instruments, who are manipulated from Damascus.

These criminal attacks are part of the price that the free world and its friends in the area are paying in confronting the savage and fierce actions of the enemies of freedom, who disguise themselves behind religious fanaticism or behind the struggle against the west.

## More Reportage on Kidnapped Saudi Consul

### VOL on Alleged Whereabouts

*NC181515 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization has claimed responsibility for yesterday's abduction of Saudi diplomat Husayn Farrash, saying the diplomat will be executed in accordance with Islamic law and that his body will be thrown away. An anonymous caller, claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad Organization, contacted the AFP, saying the organization will not cease its operations against Lebanese and Arab agents and those collaborating with the Americans and French, be they politicians or military personnel.

Information available to the Voice of Lebanon indicates that a terrorist nicknamed Kissinger, along with 13 other elements, had arrived in West Beirut from the Upper Al-Matn after having been trained to carry out explosions and assassinations, and that they are currently commissioned with assassinating several Lebanese, Arab, and foreign personalities, in addition to striking at the Multinational Force's interests. The information says Kissinger is residing on Al-Hamra' Street in Beirut.

Our information adds that the Saudi diplomat is now in Beirut's southern suburb, and specifically in a building belonging to the Islamic Jihad Organization — Hezbollah. The information further adds that the Arab intelligence apparatus behind the kidnapping has officers in the suburb directing the operations and passing clear-cut instructions for the killing, kidnapping, and attacking of American, French, and Saudi interests.

The information says the gunmen who kidnapped the Saudi consul were ordered to take him to the Al-Biqa'. However, the snow-covered mountain roads precluded such an operation, which in turn prompted the gunmen to transport him to the suburb.

### Aimed At Pressuring Saudis

*NC181422 Paris AFP in English 1402 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpts] Beirut, Jan 18 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad Organization has claimed responsibility for today's slaying of Malcolm Kerr, president of the American University of Beirut, and for yesterday's kidnapping of Saudi diplomat Husayn 'Abdallah Farrash, saying the latter would be killed soon.

Mr Farrash, consul and first secretary at the Saudi Embassy, was kidnapped yesterday morning by six men who forced his chauffeur-driven car to stop at a construction site. His bodyguard was shot and wounded in the incident.

Another organization, identifying itself as the Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners, had earlier today claimed responsibility for the Farrash abduction. The group said the kidnapping was aimed at pressuring Saudi King Fahd to intervene with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for application of a security plan for the Greater Beirut area.

### Shi'ites Divided on Diplomat's Fate

*NC190818 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Excerpts] Investigations are continuing to discover the whereabouts and identity of the abductors of Saudi Consul Husayn al-Farrash, whose fate is still unknown, and who is still being held captive in the southern suburb of Beirut — to be precise at the headquarters of the Islamic al-Jihad Organization — which announced that the Saudi diplomat will be executed according to Islamic law.

According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, an intelligence service of a state with officers in the southern suburb is behind the kidnapping. These officers are directing operations and ordering kidnappings, assassinations, and attacks against U.S., French, and Saudi interests in an attempt to gain a free hand in Lebanon and use the Lebanese issue as a card in bargaining and blackmail.

Several reports have indicated a conflict between moderate and extremist Shi'ite organizations in the southern suburb due to the abduction of the Saudi consul and threat to kill him. The disagreement increased yesterday when the extremists prevented the moderates from approaching the building in which the consul is being detained. The moderates criticized the extremists' statement threatening to execute the Saudi diplomat according to Islamic law.

### Beirut on 5-Hour Al-Jumayyil-Rumsfeld Meeting

*NC181734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] At a time when there are increasing attempts to escalate the security situation by various means — substantiated in the successive shelling, assassination, and kidnapping attempts — and the state is trying on all levels to tackle the security situation, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today held a 5-hour meeting with U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld. The U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Bartholomew, attended the meeting.

This is the second long meeting this week. An earlier 3-hour meeting was held on Monday. It is known that Rumsfeld has been in Lebanon since the beginning of the week following his visits to Syria and Israel.

### Foreign Minister Salim in France for Talks

For reportage on Foreign Minister Salim's visit to France, including his arrival statement on 18 January, see the France section of the 19 January Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

### Continuing Reportage on Security Situation

#### Limited Shooting in Mountain

*NC181243 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The security situation remained generally calm today save a limited violation this afternoon in the mountain, where Junblattist gunmen directed automatic weapon fire from their emplacements in Baysur and Al-Fasqin at Army positions in Qabr Shmun and 'Ayn Ksur. The fire eventually abated when the Army appropriately responded.

#### Syrian Weapons to Mountain Area

*NC190751 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, Syrian military trucks were seen in Hammanah yesterday afternoon unloading ammunition, Grad missiles, rocket launchers, and 130- and 122-caliber shells, preparatory to transporting them to the fighting axes on the mountain.

The dispatch of these weapons, which have an estimated weight of 200 tons, comes in the aftermath of a visit to Damascus by two Progressive Socialist Party officials and an official of the Amal Movement. The three officials returned to Beirut yesterday.

#### Sniping at Army Positions

*NC190904 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb are coming under sniper fire from Junblattist positions in the 'Aytat area.

#### Syrian Nationalists-Red Knights Clash

*NC191216 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that clashes have been raging since 0900 this morning between Syrian nationalists and the Red Knights, the military wing of the Arab Democratic Party, in the Halba area of 'Akkar District. The two sides are using machine guns and rocket shells. Movement came to a standstill in Halba, and schools and shops closed. Security sources attributed the reasons for the clashes to yesterday's attack in the town of Takrit near Halba on the house of Muhammad Hasan, coordinator general of the Syrian Nationalist Party in 'Akkar.

### U.S. Warplanes Overfly South, Mountain, Beirut

*NC190938 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] U.S. warplanes overflew the south, mountain area, and Beirut approximately 10 minutes ago. It has been reported that the warplanes released thermal balloons while over the mountain.

### U.S. Marines Fire at Vehicle Near Airport

*NC191229 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1223 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] U.S. Marines fired at a Landrover which did not comply with an order to stop near the Marines positions in the airport area. There were no casualties, with a bullet simply hitting the vehicle, which was carrying technicians to the airport.

### French Planes Overfly Beirut, Suburbs 19 Jan

*NC191140 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] French warplanes overflew Beirut and its suburbs at 1058, releasing thermal balloons.

## More Reportage on Security Situation in South

### Rocket Fired at Israeli Post

*NC181238 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Early this morning, unidentified persons fired a rocket at an Israeli forces' post in the Ash-Shaqif Club in An-Nabatiyah. Israeli Forces immediately opened fire in all directions and fired flares over An-Nabatiyah. Israeli vehicles then moved toward the surrounding ridges and cordoned off the area and began a wide-scale campaign of raids and combing. At midnight, the Israeli forces surrounded the Al-Wazin fortress area in Kafr Rumman, An-Nabatiyah District and launched another wide-scale campaign of raids and searches.

### Israeli Soldier Reportedly Killed

*NC181430 Paris AFP in English 1412 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpts] Beirut, Jan 18 (AFP) — An Israeli soldier was killed today when his patrol came under small arms and rocket fire near Sidon in southern Lebanon, correspondents reported from the region. One of the attackers was reportedly killed. The soldier was in an armored car when the attack began, the correspondents said, citing witnesses.

(In Jerusalem, Israeli correspondents reported from southern Lebanon that shots fired by Israeli soldiers at a bomb near a road had ricocheted and slightly wounded two Palestinian children at the Burj al-Jamaliyah refugee camp near Tyre. The bomb, on a road used by Israeli patrols, contained five kilos (11 pounds) of explosives and was finally defused by an Israeli bomb disposal unit, the correspondents said.)

### Explosions in Sidon

*NC190650 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon reports that four explosions rocked the area last night. Two explosions occurred in two houses in the Al-Qayya'ah area, and two others occurred in a house and shoe shop in the 'Abra area. The explosions caused heavy material damage.

### IDF Tanks Open Fire

*NC190909 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] At 0910 today, two Israeli Merkava tanks stopped in the middle of the main Riyad as-Sulh Street in Sidon, near An-Najmah square, and fired intensively in the air, causing panic among the citizens. The citizens started to flee, and drivers blowing their horns hastened to escape from the area. The two tanks left the street approximately 7 minutes later. The reasons for this action are not yet clear.

### Israeli Casualties in Sidon Clash

*NC191236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] At 1345 today, a clash took place between gunmen and an Israeli patrol in the Sidon port area. Intensive shooting was heard. After 5 minutes a large Israeli force, consisting of tanks and vehicles, rushed to the scene, cordoned off the area, and began a combing operation. Israeli ambulances were seen in the area. Eyewitnesses said there were Israeli casualties.

### SAM-6 Fired at Israeli Planes

*NC191022 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] A SAM-6 missile was fired from Sannin Heights at Israeli planes flying reconnaisance missions at a low altitude over the capital, mountain, and south. The missile missed and exploded in the air.

**Radio Analyzes U.S. Methods, Policy in Region**

*JN181822 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Politicians in the U.S. Administration and outside it admit that U.S. policy in the Middle East is facing a large, difficult problem and that this problem cannot be resolved by the methods that the administration has so far adopted. Presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld has implicitly admitted that this problem cannot be resolved by the current administration and that he prefers to postpone the difficult issues until after the presidential election and to deal with the simple issues step by step. Rumsfeld might admire the Kissinger method that brought the step-by-step method to the region and want to adopt a role similar to Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy, but he should recall that Kissinger created the difficult and complicated problems that the administration complains about and that what is considered Kissinger's achievement was not in the interest of the United States and its Arab relations. It was in the interest of Israel and its aggressive and expansionist plans.

In his writings following his departure from the State Department, Kissinger expressed pride in having deceived and misled even the U.S. president to make him help Israel. In fact, the main problem facing the U.S. Administration does not lie in the outstanding issues in the region, but in the restrictions imposed on U.S. policy. The issues of the region are clear and uncomplicated when people look at them in view of realism, neutrality, and adherence to law and internationally accepted principles. Between war and peace, between the right to self-determination and aggression, between legality and illegality, between the occupation of other people's land and the peoples' right to sovereignty and independence, and between respecting and challenging the UN resolutions, there is no difficulty of choice, especially when people are just, realistic, and respect justice, right, and principles.

The difficulty lies in the fact that the United States has no free decisionmaking regarding the Middle East. It has tied its policy and moves to Israel's policy and moves. This is clear in the U.S.-Soviet statement on the Middle East issued in 1977. The United States could not respect its signature on that statement more than a few days. It was compelled to retreat from its signature and commitments under Israeli pressure. If the United States does not possess free decisionmaking in the Middle East, its problems in the region will be further complicated, and its iterests and relations will be subject to further losses.

It is true that Israel constitutes the most dependable and honest U.S. ally since the fall of the shah's regime, but this ally, which uses all kinds of U.S. aid to carry out its aggressive and expansionist plans in the region, will, in the long run, harm the national interests of the American people in the region and damage U.S.-Arab relations. The Arabs ask only that the United States adopt a just and netural policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on respect for peoples' self-determination and their right to sovereignty and independence, respect for the impermissibility of annexing other people's land by force and for the principle of equality among countries and peoples.

Syria harbors no enmity against the Ammerican people and does not believe there is justification for creating enmity or disputes with them.It also does not believe the Amercian people are interested in sending their sons to the Middle East to die in defense of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, Palestine, or Syrian lands. But the U.S. Administration's submission to the Israeli decision in the region has thrown the United States into a dangerous crisis in the Middle East. If the current or forthcoming U.S. administration does not reconsider the submission of U.S. policy to Israel, the problem of U.S. policy in the Middle East will become more complicated and too difficult to be resolved.

**AL-BA'TH on King Husayn's Call for Majority Vote**

*JN190820 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, *AL-BA'TH* explains the background of the suspicious proposal King Husayn made in his last speech about adopting a majority, instead of a unanimous, vote on pan-Arab issues. The paper says: Arab unanimity is a basic principle dictated by purely pan-Arab considerations affecting the entire Arab nation. Any deviation from his unanimity places a certain responsibility on the transgressing side. This was the case with the Egyptian regime when it deviated from Arab unanimity by concluding the Camp David deal, thereby seriously jeopardizing the Palestine question. *AL-BA'TH* asks: Why then is King Husayn demanding these days that the principle of majority vote be adopted? The paper replies: What King Husayn is proposing cannot be isolated from what is taking place in the Arab arena, especially after the emergence of 'Arafat's deviation and the Jordanian regime's intention to cooperate with 'Arafat in making total consessions along the lines of the Camp David deal and therefore eliminating the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. These proposals cannot be isolated from the plans to make new concessions.

The paper adds: Unanimous Arab decisions deal with crucial Arab issues and inalienable rights affecting the entire Arab nation. These rights are supposed to be protected by continuous Arab unanimity. In fact, they received unanimous Arab approval and worldwide support. Therefore, how can the Arab masses now allow unanimity on crucial issues to be challenged on the pretext of adopting decisions on the basis of the majority vote and royal democracy which King Husayn is voicing these days?

*AL-BA'TH* continues: It has become clear to the Arab nation that the Jordanian option is a deal for major concessions that will break the back of the Palestine question. King Husayn's past interviews with U.S. television have confirmed this deal and established the king's desire to go along with the Reagan plan. So here he is now going around Arab decisions in order to represent the Palestinians and carry out the deal that he promised his masters. If the king's insistence on the majority vote coincided with 'Arafat's insistence and false concern about independent Palestinian decisionmaking, it is because they represent the two sides of the same coin — that is, relinquishing the Palestine question after deviating from Arab unanimity and resolutions concerning this central issue.

The paper concludes: Nobody objects to any Palestinian decision to defend Palestinian rights. The Arabs are committed to supporting such a decision, since this is one of their pan-Arab obligations. In fact, the Arabs have fought many wars and made great sacrifices for its sake. But if the intention is to find an excuse to implement the Reagan plan and join the Camp David accords, then this would definitely mean faking the decision [to defend Palestinian rights] and independent Palestinian decision-making and distorting the concepts of pan-Arab struggle.

### Magazine Ridicules Jordan's West Bank Plans

*JN180850 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jan 84*

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] In its editorial this week under the headline "The Jordanian Age of Speed," *AT-TALA'I'* magazine says: Since 1967, the Jordanian regime has done nothing with regard to the Palestine question other than carry out the infamous September massacres. The regime is now moving at such a remarkable speed with regard to the Palestine question that this question has indeed become the Jordanian age of speed. The Jordanian regime is about to break the sound barrier in the Palestine question's airspace in order to liquidate that question. The zero hour for launching the liquidatory Jordanian missile was the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting.

The Jordanian regime's quick, successive measures are as follows: first, removing the cobweb from the Jordanian Parliament; second, forming a new Jordanian Government. The return of the Jordanian Parliament, which was absent for about 10 years, means preparing the official and formal institution that will endorse the future of the occupied territories.

Here we have to inquire about the nature of the occupied Arab territories' future, specifically the West Bank. This future, in its best form, is represented in the 10-year-old idea of a united Arab kingdom that would consist of a Jordanian East Bank and a Palestinian West Bank which would enjoy some autonomy. This plan agrees with the plan of Yigal Alon, the dead Israeli minister, which maintains that more than half of the West Bank must be carved up — in accordance with the slogan of Greater Jewish Jerusalem and the requirements of Israeli security — that the remnants of the West Bank must be surrounded with a belt of Jewish military settlements, and that all this must be accompanied by normalizing Jordanian-Israeli relations to a point closer to a confederation.

Imagine that as the maximum level. What about the minimum level? The minimum level is the Reagan plan that turns the West Bank into a buffer zone, and not even into a buffer state, between Israel and Jordan. What remains of the West Bank after Jerusalem and other lands are annexed to the Zionist entity will be a land without identity that will maintain similar relations with both Jordan and Israel and will allow full Israeli supervision over military and economic affairs, including the water resources in the West Bank. At the same time, there will be no Palestinian state or even a weak autonomy. The West Bank's relationship with Israel will be similar to the relationship between the Tahiti [as heard] islands and the United States before the former were annexed to the United States.

Needless to say, these maximum and minimum levels might represent anything but the national Palestinian state or any right of the Palestinian Arab people. This black future of the occupied territories is of course awaiting the tool of implementation on the Jordanian side.

Here we will touch on the second speedy Jordanian measure, which followed the revival of the dead Parliament. It is the new Jordanian Government. Political circles both inside and outside Jordan are talking about a new government formed by Ahmad 'Ubaydat. All these circles describe 'Ubaydat as the former Jordanian interior minister. However, some of these circles recall that this former interior minister and present prime minister was once director of Jordanian intelligence. What kind of Jordanian intelligence is that? We wish that Jordan had a developed, modern, and strong intelligence organ to get all kinds of information about the enemy. However, Ahmad 'Ubaydat's organ does not assume such a duty. It might know the kind of food a Jordanian eats, but might not even know the name of the Israeli prime minister.

The book of the new Jordanian Government can be read through its title, Ahmad 'Ubaydat. It is a government that will crush those who say no to liquidatory plans in both the West and East Banks.

Some might ask how the Jordanian regime can crush and destroy while it has not yet entered the remnants of the West Bank. Ten years ago, after the proposal was made concerning the united Arab kingdom, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah said: There will be no problem at all. He added that if a Jordanian battalion enters the West Bank, everything will be resolved. We will comment on that exaggeration with one word: They are optimistic to the extent of stupidity. No human brain can imagine the extent of their stupidity.

### AL-BA'TH: 'Arafat, Husayn's Working for U.S.

*JN181008 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Pro-U.S. Arabs Are Implementing Israel's Scheme" *AL-BA'TH* deals with U.S. attempts to impose hegemony over the region through gateways prepared by Washington which will obstruct the Arab nation's progress and the struggle of our Arab masses for regaining the occupied territories. *AL-BA'TH* says: When the U.S. Administration realized the futility of its reliance on the military factor for extricating itself from its present dilemma as a result of its increasing overt military involvement in Lebanon in particular and in the region in general, it launched an intensive diplomatic move toward the Arabs. This move has been multifaceted — sometimes direct and sometimes indirect through third parties. To be more specific, the Reagan administration has allowed world and Arab parties to participate in its diplomacy in the hope

that it will be able to achieve indirectly what it failed to achieve directly. It is evident that the British and French Governments are assuming a clear and effective role within the overall U.S. plan on the basis of a U.S. authorization whose dimensions and objectives have been clearly defined.

The number of Arab parties entrusted by the United States to participate in this move that will pose more threats to the Arabs increased in wake of 'Arafat's visit to the Camp David regime in Cairo. Other regimes expected to be basic pillars in any future confrontation with the Zionist enemy have joined these Arab parties.

*AL-BA'TH* adds: The U.S. Administration, which has planned and is planning for what has taken place and is still taking place in the Arab arena, has intensified its diplomatic move and is working to expand its framework because it considered the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting to be its best opportunity, particularly since this meeting took place in wake of a series of retractions by 'Arafat in accordance with a defined program whose chapters began with the first Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon in 1978.

It has been proved that this program within whose framework 'Arafat and Husayn are proceeding does not deviate from the general framework defined by the Camp David accords, which were the principal cause for all the harm that has befallen the Arab nation. This is substantiated by the successive statements by the Camp David parties in Washington, Tel Aviv, and Cairo. Shultz said in Stockholm yesterday that Washington continues to base its Middle East policy on the Camp David accords, thus reiterating that any solution that does not pass through Camp David is unacceptable and will never succeed. This means that all that 'Arafat, King Husayn, and others in our Arab homeland are undertaking toward what they call peace is in complete harmony with the U.S. stand reaffirming Washington's commitment to the Camp David accords, which have legalized the Zionist occupation of Arab territories.

Washington seeks, through the generalization of the Camp David accords, to impose complete control on our Arab homeland as a prelude to imposing complete Zionist control on our Arab homeland and fulfilling the Zionist Movement's dream of establishing a state from the Euphrates to the Nile. Therefore, the pro-U.S. Arabs will be implementing the Greater Israel scheme.

**Shamir Address on Reconvening of Jordanian Parliament**
*TA190816 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 18 Jan 84*

["Address of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, 18 January 1984"]

[Text] The following is the answer of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to a motion to the agenda on the recent reconvening of the Jordanian Parliament:

Mr Speaker,

The Jordanian Parliament was convened in special session on the seventh of the month, for the first time since 1976. As is known, at the time, representatives from among the Arab residents of the Judaea and Samaria areas participated in this parliament. They travelled (unintelligible —ed.) Jordan and took part in the debates and resolutions that were designed to enable the renewed activity of the two legislative houses of the Jordanian Kingdom.

Prima facie, there is something positive in the Jordanian step from Israel's point of view. The participation of Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria in the Jordanian Parliament can be compatible with the Israeli autonomy plan, which was submitted to the Knesset by Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 28 December 1977.

In section 16 of the plan, it is written, inter alia, "The residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, citizens of Jordan, or those who will be citizens of Jordan, shall elect, and shall be eligible to be elected, to the Parliament of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with the law of that country."

Neither is the renewed activity of the Jordanian Parliament in contravention of the Camp David accords. As will be remembered, the Camp David framework agreement assigns Jordan a role in the solution of the problem of the Arabs of the Land of Israel, in all its aspects. Jordan is supposed to be a partner in the process that will bring about the establishment of a self-governing authority; Jordan is supposed to participate in the negotiations on the determination of the final status of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, commencing with the third year of the existence of the self-governing authority; and finally, Jordan is supposed to negotiate with Israel in order to sign a peace treaty with this country.

In view of these facts, it was possible to anticipate that the decision of the Jordanian authorities to convene the parliament was designed to prepare the way for Jordan's embarkation upon a positive path, while taking advantage of the ripe time of the weakening of the terrorist organizations, in order to march forward toward negotiations on an agreement with Israel. The convening of the parliament could have contributed towards this goal by giving official and public approval in Jordan for that country's entry into the political process.

However, the Jordanian Parliament has chosen not to take this positive road. To our chagrin, there are even indications of the opposite. Jordan's spokesmen have reiterated that there is no intention of hurting the PLO or taking away from that organization's mandate as the sole representative of the Arabs of the Land of Israel. The convening of the Parliament was depicted by Jordan as a step toward resuming negotiations with the head of the terrorists. The Jordanian Government's minister of the court declared on 12 January: "The Jordanian resolutions are not to be interpreted as harming the Rabat commitments (...of 1974). They have no implication with regard to the future, ultimate solution to the Palestinian problem."

And in the mandate of 10 January of the new government in Jordan it is said: "We are determined to persevere in responsible dialogue with the PLO, the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people, the free, legitimate organization that represents the aspirations and interests of the Palestinian people..."

The Government of Jordan well knows that Israel will not conduct any negotiations with the terrorists, either directly or indirectly. The Government of Jordan also knows that the PLO is the opposite of peace and the obstacle to any negotiations or agreement. There is reason therefore to ask: Where is Jordan headed? Is Jordan striving for peace, or is that country's aim to arrive at an understanding with the fanatic and destructive elements in the region.

Jordan's behavior in the international arena — including in the past year, when the hope dangled as if that country was after political negotiations — does not testify to moderation or readiness for peace with Israel. In the United Nations Organization, the representatives of Jordan appear as proxies for the PLO terrorist organizations, making statements and declarations on their behalf.

When Minister Ben-Porat submitted to the Government of Israel the program for the rehabilitation of Arab refugees in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, the Government of Jordan attacked the plan, for, in its opinion, the refugees of 1948 in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District should be resettled only within the borders of the Green Line. In other words, even when what is at issue is a constructive program of building permanent housing for refugees, the government of Jordan is not capable of freeing itself of the PLO. Political distortion which determines what they call "the right of return" of the Arabs to their original places of habitation — while ignoring the existence of Israel, and with the intent of advancing the end of this country.

[as published] In media interviews granted by King Husayn on the second and sixth of January, he used expressions such as "Israel, the occupier of all of Palestine," or "Palestinian legitimacy is a military objective." These are remarks which do not reflect moderation — quite the contrary. Recently, we have heard of visits to Amman of terrorist chieftains, and soon to visit there is Yasir 'Arafat. These are not manifestations of moderations.

In summation, one must look at Jordan, its policies and its actions, in a sober and balanced manner. Our true desire for peace must not distract us from seeing the facts. Israel has gone a long way towards the Kingdom of Jordan, in order to increase the stability and cooperation for the sake of the welfare and well-being of the Arab residents within this country's jurisdiction. We have left the Jordan bridges open, even at times of tension and war. Jordan's benefit, and the future of peace in our

region, require that the Government of Jordan dissociate itself from the Rabat and Fes resolutions and declare its willingness to join the peace process on the basis of the Camp David accords.

Israel's position is firm and clear — it is anchored in the Camp David agreements, which constitute a balanced, realistic, and logical framework towards solving the existing problems. Israel has announced on several occasions that this country is ready to negotiate with Jordan. It is worth noting that not only the Israeli Government but also the American Government has informed Jordan that the Camp David agreements constitute the basis for negotiating an agreement with Israel.

The choice before Jordan is between negotiations and agreement with organizations whose goal is the destruction of Israel, or following the road to peace with Israel. We want peace with Jordan. We are sure that the day is near when a peace agreement will be signed between Israel and Jordan. It is up to Jordan to choose between the two paths; this choice will also determine when the day of peace between Israel and Jordan will come.

After hearing the remarks of MK Amnon Lynn, which include several things which are acceptable to me, I move that the motion be referred to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee for discussion. (The Knesset Approved this motion — Ed.)

**Shamir on Multinational Force's Lebanon Stay**

*TA181245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel is not the one who decides how long the Multinational Force will remain in Lebanon. He explained that Israel did not invite the Force and that the Force is not needed for our defense. At a debate in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister said that Israel was continuing its attempts to establish the brigade [hativa] in southern Lebanon in accordance with the agreement it signed with the Al-Jumayyil government. He emphasized that the brigade commander must be acceptable to Israeli and Lebanon. Our correspondent reports that Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres said at the meeting that the prime minister's soothing words were not sufficient.

**Knesset Committee Debates Lebanon, Jordan**

*TA181818 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The prime minister has accused the opposition of hampering the attainment of a settlement in Lebanon by the remarks its members have been making from public forums. Yitzhaq Shamir said at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting: There is a danger that remarks by some opposition spokesmen could gain prominence over sections of the public, and this danger is even graver than the external danger we are facing. Our Knesset affairs correspondent, Gil'ad Mishori, reports on the Knesset committee debate:

[Begin recording] Today's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session focused on the Lebanese issue, as well as the possibilities for negotiations with Jordan. In the face of pressure in the United States to evacuate the Marines from Lebanon and the signs indicating the thinning-out of the French and Italian contingents, the prime minister said that Israel is not expressing any position on the Multinational Force because it was not Israel that had invited it in the first place; and it is not necessary for our defense.

Even prior to Haddad's death, Shamir said, we knew that his condition was worsening, and we made efforts to establish the unit called the territorial brigade [hahativa hateritoryalit] according to the agreement between us and Lebanon. Everyone agrees that the commander of that force should be acceptable to both governments, Shamir said, and we hope that under a new commander, the force will still be able to maintain security in southern Lebanon.

Shim'on Peres countered, and said that the situation in Lebanon is only getting more complicated, and it is impossible to see a light at the end of the tunnel. In our presence, we are in fact triggering the organization of a hostile force in southern Lebanon, which might replace the PLO and be even more difficult to handle in the future. We cannot be satisfied with your appeasing, pacifying comments, when our situation now is worse than the situation that prevailed prior to the war.

Peres added in connection with Jordan: How does the Cabinet regard the latest events in Jordan vis-a-vis the West Bank? West Bank Parliament members were invited to participate in the Jordanian Parliament session. Is the government encouraging the process, or does it oppose it?

MK Yosi Sarid said: You are beginning to back off from the decision to begin the war, but you will not be able to escape the decision to end it and withdraw. That should be done at once in order to remove our soldiers from the inferno called southern Lebanon, Sarid said. Instead of dealing only with the evacuation arrangements, you have the gall to invest time, money and energy into evacuting the Hebron marketplace.

MK Druckman reacted by saying: Yosi Sarid is in the minority; the people think otherwise. Regarding Lebanon, Druckman said: After Haddad's death, we are obligated to employ even harsher security measures to ensure the safety along our northern border.

The prime minister responded to the speakers, and said: Any talk about returning to the earlier state of affairs is nonsense and stupidity. Peace for the Galilee has been achieved, and the problem is only how to guarantee this in the future as well. All the talk that comes from all kinds of public forums makes finding any sort of solution much more difficult, Shamir said.

As for the Jordanian issue, he said that we have adopted no position regarding Husayn's decision to reconvene its parliament, because this is Jordan's affair. The West Bank representatives are Jordanian citizens, so they are free to go. We do not regard this as entailing any danger.

Regarding Sarid's remarks, Shamir said he preferred not to react to them. I shudder at the thought that thoughts such as his would

captivate parts of our public. This is a terrible danger, which is worse than danger from the outside. He claimed that the Alignment more than anyone else should be aware of this.

Sarid reacted: I cannot envision a greater danger to Israel than the continued rule of the incumbent government.

On a humorous note, MK Shlomo Hilel said: You are both right. [end recording]

### Knesset To Hold Plenary Debate on Settlements

*TA181418 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The government had to agree to a plenary debate [on the motion] of Likud MK's Berman and Zeigerman on immediately freezing the plans for establishing additional settlements in the territories. The proposal was accepted since the TAMI faction and Minister Ari'el Sharon were absent from the plenary hall during the vote on the motion. MK Yitzhaq Berman said settlements should be frozen so as to prevent a collapse of the economy. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi accused the two MK's of seeking an alibi to strengthen the opposition's stance. He told MK Berman that it is impossible to be a member of the coalition and act against it at the same time. As there was no majority for the coalition, most of the Alignment and Likud members agreed to have a plenary debate on this issue.

### Sharon Clarifies Remarks on Lebanon War Decisions

*TA181949 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that he takes full responsibility for the Peace for Galilee war, its planning and implementation. Interviewed by educational television, Minister Sharon said that the remarks attributed to him — to the effect that he was not party to the decision to enlist the reservists and bomb Beirut on the eve of the Peace for Galilee war — were taken out of context. He expressed sorrow at the criticism voiced against him by MK Ge'ula Kohen of Tehiya, because he believes she never bothered to check the facts.

Interviewed by the Voice of Israel earlier, MK Kohen said that Minister Sharon believes — as she put it — in his strong ego, and after he builds something he shatters it with one kick of his boot, and thus consequently also ruins himself.

### Ilia Reprimanded; Will 'Probably' Remain in IDF

*TA181907 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1850 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Jerusalem, 18 jan (ITIM) — Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia, the head of the civilian administration in the territories, who resigned from his job, was tried this morning before a senior ad hoc judge — head of the Manpower Branch, Major General 'Amos Yaron — on the counts attributed to him, and was reprimanded for his misconduct. Brig Gen Ilia will probably not leave the IDF and will only change jobs. Yesterday the Military Judge Advocate decided that there are grounds to try Ilia for violating orders, abusing authority and behaving in a manner unbecoming to an IDF officer. The Military Judge Advocate recommended that he be tried by a senior ad hoc judge. The defense minister's spokesman, Nahman Shay, said in reply to a question by ITIM that Defense Minister Moshe Arens had approved Ilia's resignation after prior approval was obtained for it by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi, who referred to the opinion that had been submitted to him. Shay said this was a delicate setup, and sometimes it is necessary to address the nature of the felony, not necessarily its degree.

### Peres Holds 'Secret' Meeting With Workers

*TA181807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpts] A meeting which was defined as secret was held today between Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres and representatives of various workers' committees in the offices of the Labor Party in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum is reporting from there:

[Nestelbaum — live] What did Shim'on Peres and the representatives of the workers' committees talk about? The answer to this question was evasive. The representatives of the workers' committees, who were surprised to find the Voice of Israel correspondent at the site, defined this as a meeting on economic affairs. The meeting was organized by the head of the Organizing and Workers Councils Department of the Histadrut, Gid'on Ben-Yisra'el. The participants of the meeting refused to divulge details about their conversation with Shim'on Peres.

Gid'on Ben-Yisra'el volunteered to tell us what representatives of the workers' committees refused to say:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Yisra'el] The meeting today was with the heads of the committees who are members of the Labor Party and of its professional unions branch. They periodically meet with the Labor Party chairman. Today's meeting was such an occasion. They came to listen but also to make their voices heard, their main message being that the present government should be replaced as soon as possible.

[Nestelbaum] Mr Peres, what did you discuss with the representatives of the various committees here?

[Peres] I gave them a detailed explanation about the Alignment's political and economic programs.

[Nestelbaum] Is this the kind of a meeting you hold with leaders of workers' committees?

[Peres] I meet with leaders of workers' committees once a month, on the average. This is not a special meeting. I meet with them quite frequently.

[Nestelbaum] Have you also suggested to them ways of struggle, of solving their problems?

[Peres] This we did not discuss. I talked instead about points of principle. [end recording]

### Defense Ministry Official's U.S. Trip Postponed

*TA181655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] As a result of the sanctions in the Defense Ministry, Director General Menahem Meron was forced to postpone his departure for strategic talks in Washington. This was learned by our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal. He is the person who is handling the sanctions, which are causing heavy damages. Our correspondent notes that Minister Arens will confer with the workers tomorrow. At a meeting, Histadrut Secretary-General Yeruham Meshel asked the defense minister to take action in his talks with the finance minister to find a way to fulfill the ministry workers' demands.

Sources in the Defense Ministry have expressed the fear that the Treasury has found a way to indirectly pay the large-scale suppliers of the defense establishment through the Bank of Israel. This includes, for example, companies like Tadiran [large electronics company]; the military industries; and the oil companies. According to the sources, the funds are transferred without supervision by the Treasury to make sure that the sums paid are truly what the Defense Ministry owes the suppliers. The Defense Ministry refused to comment on this.

### Moynihan Promises Aid on Free Trade Zone

*TA181920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan has promised the prime minister to act for the establishment of a free trade zone between Israel and the United States when discussion of this issue begins in the U.S. Senate next month. Mr Shamir told the visiting senator that lowering the customs on trade with the United States is one of the solutions to Israel's economic difficulties. Moynihan was a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and is currently the Democratic senator from New York State in the U.S. Senate.

### Increase in Jewish Inhabitants of Old City Planned

*TA181133 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 84 p 1*

[Report by Jerusalem correspondent Nadav Shraga'i]

[Excerpts] The "Atara Le-Yoshna" yeshiva, which wants to house Jews in the Old City's Muslim quarter, now wants to invest some 300 million shekels to substantially increase Jewish settlement there. An internal document of this establishment, which reached this reporter, details the yeshiva's plans regarding buildings and courtyards in its possession. This document indicates that the yeshiva plans to effect new construction on these sites stretching over about 4,000 square meters, and increase the Jewish population in six separate locations there.

In a three-story building, now housing the "Atarat Kohanim" yeshiva, the "Atara Le-Yoshna" yeshiva society is planning to refurbish two apartments as well as construct a dormitory for several dozen students, in addition to a study hall and dining room. Another Yeshiva, "Birkat Avraham," is planned to house apartments for families plus an additional educational establishment. The construction area on this site is estimated at about 1,000 square meters.

"Atara Le-Yoshna" also plans to construct 28 housing units on about 2 dunams of land near Herod's Gate. The land belongs to the White Russian Church; however, the head of the Lands Administration has decided not to purchase it, since its ownership is in dispute. The Red Russian Church also claims ownership of this land.

"Atara Le-Yoshna" has been active in purchasing land, buildings, and property from Muslim residents in the Old City for several years now. Its functionaries say they are redeeming the land just as the Jewish National Fund did before the state came into being, and this in the noblest sense of the word. All six sites under consideration at this time were inhabited by Jews in the past, until the riots at the beginning of the century.

There are now about 150 Jews living in the area now, and according to the Yeshiva society numerous applications have come in, both from educational institutions as well as from families and individuals eager to reside in this quarter.

This correspondent notes that most of the projects mentioned in the document have yet to be approved by the Jerusalem Planning Commissions. The municipality has in the past approved some of the society's building programs.

### Government Rehabilitates Displaced Galilee Arabs

*TA181657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] All the displaced persons from the Upper Galilee village of Qaddita have been rehabilitated. They were evacuated during the 1948 war of independence. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the Israel Land Administration gave each of the 70 families that currently reside in the village of 'Akbara near Zefat a plot of land free of charge on which to build a new home. Roads leading to the village were also paved and infrastructure work was carried out. The village mukhtar thanked the government for the rehabilitation work. Our correspondent adds that no decision has yet been made whether to set up a local council in the village, or join it to neighboring Arab villages.

### West Bank Residents React to Husayn Policy

*TA181728 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1635 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Jerusalem, 18 Jan (ITIM) — The ramifications of King Husayn's latest initiative and his parliamentary activity in Jordan have begun to appear among his sympathizers throughout the West Bank.

One of the shop owners at the entrance to Bethlehem has placed a statue of King Husayn, made of mosaic and woodwork, in his shop window. This is the first time that King Husayn's image has been seen in a conspicuous spot, without eliciting any reaction from the local Arab population.

This "democratic" atmosphere is also clearly visible in the various universities, where the student bodies are organizing rallies and support meetings for the different PLO factions. At present, the residents of the West Bank are expressing their view, whatever it may be, more freely and usually without fear. These opinions are made public either through the Arab press published in East Jerusalem, or through placards and ad hoc publications.

### West Bank Leaders To Seek 'Arafat Participation

*TA190830 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jan 84 p 2*

[Text] Some 50 leading West Bank moderates, including several prominent businessmen and professionals, plan to leave for the Jordanian capital within the next few days to try to persuade PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn to come to a political arrangement that will allow negotiations over the future of the area.

The West Bankers, who will be travelling individually, are ostensibly going to Amman to congratulate the new Jordanian Government and if possible to see Husayn who was recently discharged from hospital. However, several of the participants confirmed this week that they hope to convey the concerns of Palestinians living on the West Bank, and stress the urgent need for negotiations to be initiated in order to stop Israel's creeping annexation of the area.

### Ad-Duhayshah Camp Houses Saved by Bypass Road

*TA190943 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jan 84 p 3*

[Report by Tzvi Bar'el]

[Text] The Defense Ministry will not demolish houses belonging to inhabitants of the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem. Instead, a bypass road to the camp will be built. This is the essence of the reply given by Renato Jarach, senior assistant to the state attorney, to the High Court of Justice concerning the appeal submitted by residents of the camp. The appeal was submitted in the middle of November through Lawyer Amnon Zikhroni and 'Abdallah (Kutab), after it was learned that the security forces intended to "shave" inhabitants' houses close to the main highway. In reply to the appeal that is to be submitted to the High Court today, the state guarantees to inform the appellants in advance and within a reasonable period of time of any changes in this policy, so that they will be able to exhaust the legal procedures before any action whatsoever is taken. Lawyer Zikhroni said that following this reply, he saw no need, for the moment, to continue with the moves.

### HA'ARETZ Questions Policy on Hebron Plan

*TA181129 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 84, p 7*

[Second Editorial: "Asking for Trouble in Hebron"]

[Text] With 4,000 apartments standing empty in Jerusalem alone, what sort of housing shortage compels the government to build more housing units deep in the heart of Hebron? With the Ministry of Construction and Housing being asked to effect a 9 percent cutback in its budget, where will Minister David Levi find the money to finance even the start of building this project? Not a single Herut Knesset member can justify this; but the prime minister, and the minister of justice are supposed to be making a decision on the matter.

A plan has been presented by the Qiryat Arba' settlers, only a few weeks after some of their members set fire to Arab stores in Hebron's vegetable market in reaction to the murder of Aharon Gross. This plan deals with the need to expropriate the vegetable market (an elongated one-story building) and use the plot, measuring several hundred dunams, to construct about 500 high-rise housing units.

Six months have elapsed since then, but the people of Qiryat Arba' have not let up the pressure on the government, although they have reduced their original plan to 21 apartments in one high-rise building. Their aim is to have as many Jews as possible penetrate the very heart of Hebron, regardless of the fact that this town is entirely populated by Arabs. What is more, they find willing listeners in those Cabinet ministers who advocate the restoration of the Jewish quarter of Hebron — even at a time when they should reject such an idea, no matter how dear to their hearts — or at least move it down to the lowest rung on their scale of priorities.

It is said that the defense minister "enthusiastically" supports the idea of a Jewish quarter in the heart of Hebron, provided the legal problems inherent in its implementation are solved. As it happens, there is no lack of such problems: The Hebron municipality has signed contracts with Arab vegetable merchants, and it is still not clear how anyone who does not agree to exchanging his shop for another one in a different part of the town can be compelled to make a deal.

In any event, even if legal solutions are found, what is the point in adding yet another disputatious issue to the already existing tension created by the very existence of Qiryat Arba' and its offshoots within the town (the Hadassah building, the Romano building)? Are Messrs Shamir, Levi, Arens, and Nissim incapable of realizing that by encouraging the transformation of the marketplace into a building site intended to house a Jewish quarter they are merely asking for more trouble?

### Two Lebanese Children Injured in Bomb Incident

*TA181355 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1333 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Two children from the Burj ash-Shamali refugee camp near Tyre were slightly injured today when IDF soldiers fired at a suspicious parcel discovered in the camp. The children received initial first aid by a medic and were subsequently evacuated to a local hospital. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that an IDF investigation discovered that the parcel included a 5-kg bomb, which was defused.

### IDF Kills Terrorist at Port of Sidon 18 Jan

*TA181630 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1555 GMT 18 Jan 84*

["IDF Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] A terrorist was killed this afternoon by IDF fire in Sidon. At around 1230 light arms fire was directed at an IDF position at the port of Sidon. The men at the position returned fire at the direction from which it came. Searches revealed a terrorist's body and his weapons near him. Our forces sustained no casualties.

### Egyptian Consul Receives 'Peace Medal'

*TA190831 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jan 84 p 3*

[Text] Elat, no date as published (ITIM] — "This is the most exciting gift I have ever received," the Egyptian consul here said yesterday after he was presented with a "peace medal" by a delegation of Israel Bonds leaders.

The consul, Hasan 'Isa, was given the medal in recognition of his efforts to advance peaceful relations between Israel and his country.

The bonds group yesterday completed a three-day stay in Elat.

### Greek Commercial Delegation Cancels Visit

*TA181918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] A large commercial delegation from Greece has cancelled a visit to Israel at the last minute. The delegation was coming to Israel to continue deliberations about the establishment of joint Israeli-Greek projects in the communications and electronics spheres in which Greek Prime Minister Papandreou was interested.

It is believed in Athens that the cancellation of the visit is connected with Greece's desire not to anger the participants of the Islamic Conference which is also scheduled to discuss the Greek-Turkish conflict regarding the Turkish state in Cyprus.

However, a government spokesman in Athens said that the cancellation of the visit does not come against a political background and that Prime Minister Papandreou's announcement of his desire to improve relations with Israel is unchanged.

## ALGERIA

### Petition Protests Lawyer's Arrest, Media 'Lies'

*PM181621 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Jan 84 p 3*

[Jean de la Guerivière dispatch: "A Petition Carrying 2,700 Signatures Calls for Release of Mr Ali Yahia"]

[Text] Algiers — While an FLN Central Committee meeting is opening in Algiers this Monday, 16 January, after which the composition of the new Politburo and then a new government should be known, a few determined dissidents are protesting violations of freedom.

The cause of this agitation — probably on the fringes of society but nonetheless unusual — is the arrest by the military security department of Mr Ali Yahia, known for having defended people of all political leanings. The 64-year-old diabetic lawyer was transferred to the Maillot hospital at the end of December and then again imprisoned in an unheated cell in a prison close to Medea.

A committee for the release of Mr Ali Yahia has been formed and has been distributing a pamphlet for several days. This document reports inconsistencies in the official statements on this affair, and portrays the lawyer as "undoubtedly a prisoner of conscience." It has just been sent to Amnesty International, to the Human Rights League, and to the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

In addition, a petition signed by 2,700 people giving their names and professions was handed to the Justice Ministry on Saturday, 14 January, by 5 of them. The signatories express solidarity with Mr Ali Yahia and "condemn the lies, inconsistencies, and insults of the national press." According to them, 400 people were arrested in the Oran, Algiers, and Aures regions in October. They acknowledge that some people have been released since then, but maintain that 57 people are at present being held for political reasons.

The same dissidents told us that six people — four men and two women — arrested at the end of December for having pamphlets in their possession, are presently in prison in Algiers.

The petition, which circulated for several weeks, gathered 270 signatures in the Algiers region and in Kabylia. The signatories include a large number of Berbers, who say they are acting for the general defense of freedom, including the right to recognition of their cultural identity. In this respect, they admit that the speech made by President Bendjedid — who pointed out at the FLN congress that Algeria's history did not begin with the Arabs' arrival — may constitute an open approach. But they are waiting for that recognition of the nation's diverse roots to be translated into action.

On the night of 11 to 12 January, the date of the presidential election and coinciding with the new year in the "Berber calendar," a "gala" relating to the defense of freedom took place in Tizi Ouzou University. Contrary to its organizers' fears, the army did not occupy the campus. The authorities simply demanded and secured an agreement that the meeting should not spill over into the streets. Another proof of moderation, at least on the local level, was the fact that no arrests were made after the limited demonstration, during which a procession confronted the forces of order in Tizi Ouzou the day the FLN Congress opened.

## LIBYA

### 'Arafat Visit to Egypt Scored by Congress

*LD181756 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 14, Jan 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress (APC) issued a statement at the end of its first session for 1984, in which it condemned Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, calling it a stab and a blow to the Palestinian struggle in particular and the national struggle in general, and that it is a breach of the Palestinian national charter and the resolutions of the Baghdad summit and Arab People's conference charter. 'Arafat's visit, it added, gave a boost to the As-Sadat-Mubarak regime, giving it an Arab approval and dealing a blow to the Palestinian national unity.

The participants greeted the historical steadfastness of the Palestinian people — especially those inside the occupied Arab territories — and their rejection of capitulatory solutions, and praised the organizations which rejected Abu 'Ammar's line and his visit to Cairo.

The statement said that the members of the APC Permanent Secretariat have studied the situation in Lebanon, it being the arena of national struggle against the Zionist enemy, imperialism and reactionaryism. The arena reflects directly on the Palestinian cause, Syria and the situation in the Arab world as a whole. In this respect, the statement called for concentrating all efforts on the current events in Lebanon and the necessity of giving all forms of political, financial and military support to the Lebanese national forces through their struggle against the Zionist occupation and the U.S. military presence.

The conferencees [as received] lauded the significant role of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in its backing of the Lebanese national forces, the Palestinian revolution and Syria, politically, financially and militarily, and considered its stand evidence of the sincerity of the national tendency of the Jamahiriyah and its revolutionary leadership which made of the Palestinian cause and the national cause a direct responsibility and commitment of the Arab masses in Libya.

The final statement of the Permanent Secretariat put an emphasis on the need for national popular general mobilization to confront the common enemy in the light of the increasing imperialist, Zionist and reactionary challenges.

The secretariat also studied the suggested program for 1984 and endorsed it in its final formula, and discussed means of improving and developing the Arab People's Congress. The members also agreed to support the international secretariat in solidarity with the Arab people and its core cause — Palestine — in order to

enhance the international popular action in the service of the Arab cause, based on aims of the national struggle which drops all capitulatory tendencies.

The A.P.C. Permanent Secretariat also issued a number of resolutions and recommendations, including the merger of several student and women's organizations in the Arab world, in order to expand the membership of the A.P.C. Permanent Secretariat. The resolutions also stressed that it is essential for Secretariat members to be committed to their responsibilities and be honest and respect their decisions, and do their best to carry them out in the proper manner, and the need to convey the resolutions to the basic popular units. The responsibility of implementing these resolutions lies with the members of the Permanent Secretariat and not its bureau.

The secretariat decided to organize action among the popular masses in every Arab arena in order to face the Zionist-imperialist enemy by creating a formula that allows for the injection of efforts by all concerned parties at the Arab People's Congress, in order to improve quality through concentrating these efforts in Lebanon against the Zionist enemy and creating a national formula for armed struggle.

### Armed Forces Chief Receives Lebanese Officials

*LD181033 Tripoli JANA in English 0943 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 14, Jan 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, yesterday received 'Abdallah Sa'adeh, member of the Supreme Council of the Social Syrian National Party of Lebanon, Taysir Qubba'h, PFLP Politburo member, and George Batal, member of the Lebanese Communist Party Politburo.

### U.S. 'False Concern' Over Chad Criticized

*LD181611 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The Reagan administration has expressed mock anxiety regarding the situation in Chad, after it sought the failure of the National Reconciliation Conference held recently in Addis Ababa. An official spokesman for the U.S. State Department expressed this false concern at his daily news conference yesterday. He said: The American Administration is still anxious about the situation in Chad, as it is also anxious about what Libya intends to do in Chad.

This statement must be understood on the basis that it stems from official American designs and convictions about the need to militarily intervene and occupy Chad and make it a base for aggression, as well as to provide camouflage for its puppets in the region. It is certain here that the motives of this false concern voiced by the Reagan administration stem from the desire of this administration to implement the intentions it harbors against Libya, which the official spokesman for the American State Department could not conceal when he deliberately linked the alleged American anxiety over the situation in Chad with his questioning about what Libya intends to do there.

The American spokesman wanted to have — obvious from the line of this questioning — an excuse to justify the aggressive action that America intends to carry out in Chad under the cover of the present situation. This is, in fact, what is being prepared in the Chad arena, and the Reagan administration proved it in practice when it made its agent in Ndjamena, Hissein Habre, refrain from attending OAU meetings.

The meaning of the statements by the official spokesman for the American State Department does not require proof to confirm the American policy pursued by Reagan's administration: to fan military hysteria in Chad and continue the blatant campaign of threats against Libya. Possibly the rhetoric of this official spokesman is the best indication that America is in the process of carrying out an operation to invade Chad in the near future.

## TUNISIA

### Es-Sebsi, PRC Minister Exchange Greetings

*PM190919 Tunis L'ACTION in French 11 Jan 84 p 5*

[Unattributed report: "Exchange of Messages Between Two Countries' Foreign Ministers"]

[Text] On the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Tunisia and the PRC, Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi and Mr Wu Xueqian, his Chinese counterpart, exchanged messages.

The following is the text of the message which Mr Caid es-Sebsi sent to Mr Wu Xueqian:

"The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Tunis and the PRC provides the happy opportunity to send Your Excellency my warmest congratulations and my most sincere wishes to the great Chinese people.

"The strengthening and development of the friendly relations and cooperation which exist between our two countries, illustrated by the many visits exchanged between our top officials, have in recent years taken the form of major projects in the economic, technical, and cultural spheres. Our common efforts within international organizations, with a view to establishing a new world economic order and helping safeguard peace, reflect identical views in the service of the great principles of nonalignment and south-south cooperation.

"I am convinced that our two governments will continue to work to achieve those objectives and to develop our bilateral relations for the prosperity and welfare of our two peoples.

"Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for happiness and good health."

Mr Wu Xueqian, for his part, sent Mr Caid es-Sebsi the following message:

"On the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Tunisia, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, I would like to send you, and through you, the Tunisian Government and people, my warmest congratulations.

"Sino-Tunisian relations have been developed on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, thanks to the efforts of the two countries' leaders. For 20 years, our political, economic, and cultural relations have made satisfactory progress. Constantly strengthening and developing the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries is not only in keeping with the fundamental interests of our two peoples but also contributes to Third World solidarity and to the cause of safeguarding world peace.

"On this happy day, when we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, I would like to reaffirm, Your Excellency, that the strengthening of Chinese-Tunisian friendship and cooperation is the Chinese Government's unchanging policy. We are trying, together with the Tunisian Government, to raise the relations of friendly cooperation which so fortunately exist between our two countries to a new level.

"May the Sino-Tunisian relations of friendship and cooperation constantly be developed!

"And I send you wishes for good health and happiness."

**Labor Federation Advises Against Strikes**
*LD182351 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The Executive Bureau of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor has issued a statement saying that the Executive Bureau of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor met on the morning of Wednesday, 18 January 1984, under the chairmanship of the federation's secretary general, (Tayeb Bakouch).

After reviewing the general conditions in the country, the bureau wishes to recall the resolutions adopted by the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Labor on 6 January, pertaining to the recent incidents which shook the country. The statement adds that the Executive Bureau supports the legitimate vocational demands of the teachers and students, and sides with them in hoping for the realization of these demands as soon as possible.

As for the intention of the students cadres to hold prayers for the soul of their colleague on Thursday morning, the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Labor advises that this should be confined to 1 minute's silence or the reading of the Fatihah verses from the Koran, without resorting to strikes or letting the students out of their classes for the sake of protecting the interests of the students and the teachers and their safety in the current extraordinary conditions.

We have also learned that the Executive Bureau of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor has, in this regard, advised all regional federations to urge all men of secondary and technical education to confine themselves to the instructions issued by the Executive Bureau and not to resort to strikes in these conditions.

**Communist Party Leader Harmel Interviewed**
*PM181631 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 12 Jan 84 p 7*

[Giorgio Migliardi dispatch: "Tunisia: Harmel Says 'Reopen the Path of Dialogue'"]

[Excerpt] Tunis — We asked [Tunisian Communist Party Secretary General] Mohammed Harmel what the Tunisian Communists' stance is following Bourguiba's dismissal of Interior Minister Guiga, known as a rival to Prime Minister Mzali in the contest for succession of the elderly president. Observers in Tunis do not rule out the possibility that Guiga himself tried to manipulate the people's protest to weaken the position of the prime minister, considered a supporter of the move to pluralism that had begun to attack the Destourian Socialist Party's monopoly on the political scene.

"Regardless of the problems within the government," Harmel told us, "as far as we are concerned, the essential consideration is the basic cause behind the crisis. There is a tendency to provide superficial explanations of what has happened, attributing it to manipulations by this or that individual in the power struggle. Though such problems may exist, the important thing — if one wants to extricate the country from the crisis — is to learn the correct lessons from what has happened."

What are they? Going back over the phases of recent events, Harmel points out that in response to the spontaneous explosion, all the country's political and social forces "seemed to shut themselves up in their own shell" with a "narrow-minded and parochial" outlook, both the government — which initially defended itself stubbornly — and the opposition. Even the trade union, the UGTT, seemed to be "a prisoner of its corporate interests" instead of performing its traditional national role to the fullest. "A new national dialogue must be started," the PCT secretary general said, "to find a democratic convergence of all forces, both from the government and the opposition, to resolve the problems now facing the country's development."

The main problem for the Mzali government — which Bourguiba has given 3 months to draw up a new budget — is how to fill the gap (equivalent to about 300 billion lire) created by the cancellation of the price increases on bread and farinaceous products. "Of course," he said, "sacrifices will be necessary, but the austerity policy must not be pointed in one direction only, against the low-income sectors." "Therefore," Harmel added, "one of the lessons that we are learning from the crisis is that political pluralism, which seemed to be marking time following the initial enthusiasm, must be given a new impetus in order to enable it to fulfill all its potential."

## SOMALIA

### Foreign Minister Interviewed on Arab, African Affairs

*PM191450 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Jan 84 p 8*

[Unattributed interview with Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre in Mogadishu — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: some people are skeptical about the effectiveness of international conferences held at the Islamic, Arab or African levels. What do you think?

Answer: the different views of certain Islamic states undoubtedly lead to small or even big problems, which are bound to limit the effectiveness of joint Islamic action, and this in turn makes it possible for people bent on casting doubt do so. We hope that there will be more agreement on resolutions and future steps at the Morocco summit.

Question: Some people hold the view that the Arab League's role is limited and no longer effective.

Answer: That is true and that is why the next Arab summit conference should very frankly and realistically discuss the present regrettable state of the Arab League and why it has come to exist in name only. If we look at the Arab League resolutions taken at summit or foreign minister level we will see that they have not been implemented.

Question: What has Somalia done for the Arab League? There are those who maintain that you are a burden on the Arab League.

Answer: We in Somalia honor all Arab League resolutions and we believe in the Arab League's charter and objectives, despite the fact that when we were threatened by Ethiopia, which occupied two areas in Somalia, we found no one to support us and our cause against the aggressors. Some Arab states helped Ethiopia against Eritrea. As we can see, certain Arab states are helping Ethiopia against us now.

Question: Do you see an imminent Israeli threat to Africa?

Answer: Yes, there is a grave danger of an Israeli return to Africa. Some African states, such as Zaire and Liberia, have already restored relations with Israel. Other states are about to do the same.

Question: Which states are more likely to restore relations with Israel?

Answer: I cannot be specific but some states are considering restoring relations with Israel, and this could happen.

Question: What, in your opinion, are the obstacles standing in the way of the OAU and how can they be overcome?

Answer: The OAU is suffering from the same weakness and disunity as the Arab League and other organizations.

Question: Somalia has been accused of causing problems in Africa, especially in the Horn of Africa and neighboring states. What is your opinion, bearing in mind that some people would blame you for any possible foreign intervention?

Answer: The truth is that the conditions in Africa have changed considerably. Look at the OAU. It exists in name only. The Arab League, of which we are members, is also limited. That is why foreign intervention is very probable, particularly in view of the strong cooperation between certain African states and foreign forces which are playing a major role against the interests of this region. Since Somalia is a part of a strategic and very important area it has always been coveted by the big powers. Some African states, unfortunately, follow foreign policies and in fact work against the interests of the people of the region. Ethiopia is one of these states.

Question: Are you willing to accept any peaceful settlement of your dispute with Ethiopia?

Answer: Of course we are. We have frequently said so.

Question: Could Somalia take the initiative in this connection?

Answer: As I have said, Somalia is perfectly willing to contribute effectively to a settlement of its problems with the Ethiopian side, but if there is to be such a settlement Ethiopia should withdraw from the Somali territory it has been occupying since 1982. Furthermore, Ethiopia must seek a peaceful settlement of the question of Ogaden. This is Somalia's position.

## TANZANIA

### Nigerian Envoy Discusses Reasons for Coup

*AB181130 Lagos NAN in English 1114 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[By James Bello]

[Text] Dar es Salaam, Jan 18 (NAN) — a Member of Nigeria's Supreme Military Council (SMC), Navy Capt Ebitu Ukiwe, said on Monday that it would have been unpatriotic for the military to ignore "the wide-scale corruption and executive ineptitude" of the ousted administration.

According to a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN), Capt Ukiwe, currently heading a three-man delegation on a tour of four eastern and southern African states, was answering questions from newsmen in Dar es Salaam after delivering a special message to President Julius Nyeree of Tanzania from the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari.

Capt Ukiwe explained that apart from the fact that the 1983 election were shamefully rigged, it was disturbing to the majority to find that the same persons who "unashamedly plundered the nation's wealth in the first four years were again being appointed into positions of significance."

The military administration would be more interested in recovering the ill-gotten wealth than staging trials of culprits, he said.

Capt Ukiwe said that the contents of the message to President Nyerere were basically on why the military took over power and described the reception of his delegation by the Tanzanian leader as cordial.

The delegation, which included a former Nigerian permanent representative to the United Nations, Leslie Harriman, and a top External Affairs Ministry official, M.O. Onanaiye, has since left for Lusaka to deliver a similar message to President Kenneth Kaunda Zambia. Capt Ukiwe and his delegation will also deliver a message to Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi in Nairobi before returning to Lagos later in the week. The delegation had earlier visited Ethiopia on a similar mission.

## CONGO

### Angolan Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets With Nze

*AB180756 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 17 Jan 84*

[Text] Angolan Minister of External Affairs Paulo Jorge arrived in Brazzaville last night for a 4-day official visit to Congo at the invitation of his Congolese counterpart Pierre Nze. Official talks between the Angolan and the Congolese delegations began this morning at the Ministry of Cooperation. In his opening address, Pierre Nze emphasized the bonds of long-standing friendship between Congo and Angola. Concluding his speech, he expressed the hope that the experts of both countries would work toward the promotion of stronger ties of friendship and cooperation.

[Begin Nze recording] I do not think it is necessary to make a long speech on our relations. I believe this speech should be very concise to enable the experts of our two countries to work toward the implementation of the guidelines which have been mapped out. I would simply like to tell you, on behalf of my comrades in this hall, on behalf of our party, and of Comrade Sassou-Nguesso that Congo will always be at the side of Angola so that our long-standing struggle may continue to achieve even more brilliant victories and so that our entire continent, Africa, can be freed. [end recording]

For his part, Angolan Minister Paulo Jorge first expressed satisfaction over the brotherly, friendly, and warm reception accorded him and his delegation on their arrival yesterday. He stressed the important role Congo played during the Angolan liberation war, and also mentioned the common struggle our two peoples continue to wage against our common enemy — imperialism.

[Begin Jorge recording] It is true, Comrade Minister, that we should and hope to develop these relations that you have so rightly described as historic. For these relations are based on a common struggle against a common enemy — imperialism. The difference is that [words indistinct]. Much as imperialism would like to prevent the Congolese revolution from taking root, so does it want the Angolan revolution to disappear into thin air. That is why any time we meet at any level we must always find the necessary means to take our common aspirations into consideration, either in the political and diplomatic fields, or in the economic, social and cultural fields. And it is these identical views on issues that will give strength and stability to our bilateral relations and will enable us to jointly face all maneuvers aimed at destabilizing our revolutionary process, trying to sow seeds of discord, and trying to prevent the leadership of our states and parties from finding the ways and means to respond to the legitimate aspirations of our peoples. [end recording]

### Jorge Attends Functions

*MB181100 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Comrade Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Angolan foreign affairs minister, has been on an official visit to the People's Republic of the Congo. Yesterday he attended a rally to mark the solidarity with the Angolan people at the Angola Livre School. During this political ceremony, which was also attended by the Congolese foreign affairs minister, the people of the Congo once again expressed their unconditional solidarity with the fraternal people of Angola, who are being victimized by still more criminal aggression committed by the hideous and anachronistic South African regime. The rally was held after the official talks between Angola and the Congo had begun in Brazzaville. The delegations are led by the ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries.

Meanwhile, and as part of his visit to the People's Republic of the Congo, Comrade Paulo Jorge, who is accompanied by Emilio Guerra, minister of fisheries; Augusto Lopes Teixeira, minister of education; and (Raul Neto), deputy principal of the University of Angola, visited the Angolan cultural center, formerly the headquarters of the MPLA representation in that friendly country. At that historic place the Angolan and Congolese officials attended a number of cultural displays performed by the (Quilamba) dance group, which comprises Angolans living in the Congo. The cultural session ended with the signing of the book of honor. The Angolan foreign affairs minister hailed the role played by our cultural representation and expressed his hope that the cultural center may serve to strengthen the friendship between the two peoples, parties, and governments.

Pierre Nze, Congolese foreign affairs minister, said that the place represents one of the symbols of the unshakable desire of the Angolan people in their fight against colonialism.

The Angolan delegation, which also includes Comrade (Jose Agostinho Neto), our ambassador to the Congo, is presently visiting the area of (Lombombo) and will then follow to Pointe-Noire.

## CHAD

### France's General Poli Assesses Threat in North

*PM181506 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Jan 84 pp 1,3*

[Jean-Claude Pomonti dispatch: "At the Outposts of the 'Red Line' in Chad"]

[Excerpt] Aramkoule (eastern Chad) — The French are closely observing the strengthening of the Libyan network in the north. The Faya-Largeau airstrip has been equipped to receive heavy transport planes. "The north is being annexed by Libya," General Poli, chief of "Operation Manta," explained, specifying that the Tripoli administration is establishing itself and that the Transitional National Union Government "coalition forces" have been hounded out of some sectors. "But for us," he explained, the casus belli would be the adaptation of the Faya airstrip to receive fighters or bombers. That would then be a leap forward, because the security of Ndjamena itself would be at stake."

The Libyans are also constructing new airfields on their side of the border with Chad, especially in Ma'tan and Sarra, in the extreme southeast part of their territory, within flying distance

of Abeche, the capital of eastern Chad. Nonetheless, Gen Poli does not see that as an immediate threat and summed up the situation in the north as follows: "Goukouni Oueddei's coalition forces are less and less important compared with the Libyans. The latter are establishing themselves; their efforts do not threaten our superiority but increase their own protection in northern Chad." In other words, it seems entirely out of the question for Ndjamena to recapture Faya-Largeau unless Paris initiates an open confrontation with Tripoli, and that is not on the agenda.

However, with the guarantee of the French Army's military protection and its logistical support, the Chadian National Armed Forces have succeeded in reorganizing since their painful withdrawal from Faya-Largeau at the beginning of August. With some 4,000 or 5,000 men, it is a relatively efficiently-led guerrilla army equipped with light arms and capable of launching raids, but incapable of launching a head-on attack on the Libyans. The arrival of the French troops, numbering around 3,000 men, enabled it to "reorganize" itself.

Of course, there are still three weak points in the defense forces thus established. Infiltrations from the north are still possible, but not very significant. The stringent security measures taken in Ndjamena, especially by the French, may discourage terrorism there, provided professional kamikazes do not infiltrate the capital. Finally, in the densely populated south, where the "winning over" of former Chadian Armed Forces units requires unremitting negotiation, subversion remains the most serious threat.

But, overall, by using massive resources, "Manta" is giving Ndjamena a chance to organize itself under the protection of the French shield. "Al-Qadhdhafi cannot be ousted from the north, and the only thing to be done is to corner him by diplomatic means," Gen Poli summed up, adding that Libya "has everything to gain from scuttling the Addis Ababa conference to maintain confusion in Chad." For the time being "Manta" has already made it possible to stop the Libyan Army's southward march.

## ZAIRE

### Israel's Herzog Arrives for 6-Day Visit

#### Greeted by Mobutu

*AB181440 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Kinshasa, Jan 18 (AFP) — Israeli President Hayim Herzog arrived here today on the opening leg of the first visit by an Israeli head of state to black Africa since 1965. Mr. Herzog and his wife, who are scheduled to spend six days in Zaire before flying to Liberia on the second leg of the two-nation trip, were greeted at the airport by head of state Mobutu Sese Seko and senior Zairean officials.

A first round of talks was to be held by the two men today soon after the welcome, which included a parade of troops and a dance display. Mr. Herzog's visit was seen as a sign of the two government's desire to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, technology, industry, science and military matters since their resumption of diplomatic relations in May. [Words indistinct] Israel is trying to rebuild ties with black African nations after many of them broke diplomatic relations following the 1973 Middle East war.

Following the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai in accordance with the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, Liberia last year followed Zaire's example and also resumed relations with the Jewish state.

The then Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir visited Zaire in December 1982 and signed a cooperation agreement on agriculture, technology transfers, industry and science.

Israeli military advisers are training President Mobutu's special Presidential Brigade and the renowned Kamanyola Division based in the important mineral-rich Shaba Province.

The Israeli and Zairean authorities declined to give a financial figure for the bilateral cooperation, merely emphasizing the "dynamic nature" of the relationship.

During Mr. Herzog's stay in Zaire, groundwork could be laid for a visit to Israel by President Mobutu.

Currently, Israel has diplomatic relations with six states in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 29 to 1973: South Africa, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Zaire and Swaziland.

#### Herzog Remarks Upon Arrival

*AB182130 Paris AFP in French 1809 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Kinshasa, 18 Jan (AFP) — Israeli President Hayim Herzog stated on Wednesday in Kinshasa that "other African countries" should follow Zaire's example and renew their diplomatic ties with Israel independently. Shortly after his arrival in the Zairian capital within the framework of about a week's official visit, the Israeli head of state invited African countries to follow the example of Zaire which, he said, has "resisted blackmail" and "pressures" in order to decide "with complete independence" to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel. Mr Herzog was addressing the local press at the end of a welcoming ceremony organized in his honor at the "People's Palace."

Mr Herzog accused certain states, without however naming them, of "interfering" in the internal affairs of African countries, and thus being the major cause of the hesitation of African states to renew ties with Israel. He reiterated his country's desire to resume normal diplomatic ties with all African countries.

Speaking on the situation in the Middle East, President Herzog hinted that solutions still existed for the restoration of peace in that part of the world.

Expressing his belief that Egyptian head of state Husni Mubarak will remain faithful to the peace treaty that resulted from the Camp David accords and without denying the existence of difficulties which he described as "minor," the Israeli president said

that the general sentiment prevailing in the states of the region is that peace can only be achieved in the region through negotiation with Israel.

In regard to negotiations between King Hussein of Jordan and the PLO leader on the future of the Palestinians, the Israeli head of state doubted Yassir 'Arafat's ability to act "positively," because of the dissension within his movement. According the Mr Herzog, only King Hussein has the power to decide on goals to be set on behalf of the Palestinians, as is witnessed, according to him, by the meeting of the Jordanian parliament, half of which consists of representatives of Palestinians from the West Bank.

The Israeli head of state, who received a warm welcome on his arrival in Kinshasa, will on Wednesday evening attend a banquet offered in his honor by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko.

**Commentary on Visit**

*AB181235 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0920 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[AZAP commentary: "Consecration of the Reunion"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 18 Jan (AZAP) — After the visits made to Zaire by high-ranking Israeli officials from various spheres since the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries in May 1982, Kinshasa today is receiving Israeli President Hayim Herzog.

His visit to Zaire, where he will be Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko's privileged guest from 18 to 23 January, must be seen as the highest consecration of the reunion between Kinshasa and Tel Aviv. The break in diplomatic relations, which had not been expected because these relations were developing harmoniously in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, was only an interlude that has, in fact, been forgotten and discarded as a sad memory.

From 14 May 1982, and soon after Zaire and Israel reopened their missions in Tel Aviv and Kinshasa respectively, the two countries have already written a new page in the history of their friendship and cooperation and look to the future with optimism and confidence.

As a matter of fact, President Herzog's visit to our country is such an important event that on such occasions it seems timely to recall that the resumption of relations between Zaire and Israel brought Zaire a great deal of criticism and sarcasm from certain countries which trampled underfoot elementary diplomatic regulations and thought they could dictate a course of action to Kinshasa. This showed they did not know well the man of 24 November.

"The exercise of the sovereignty of a member state is no concern of the OAU. But it is indeed that of the country concerned. The recognition of a state or the establishment of diplomatic relations between one state and another state is an individual act of sovereignty and not a collective one," he said then.

When Yitzhaq Shamir, then Israeli minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Kinshasa on 29 November 1982 to start an official visit lasting a few days, he publicly paid tribute to Marshal Mobutu's political courage and pledged his country's determination to pursue the cooperation with Zaire on a new basis, on the basis of mutual respect for each partner's sovereignty.

He said: "Zaire and Israeli will again take their old path of friendship and cooperation. Israel's action in Zaire will set the example of friendly and serious cooperation in Africa." He was accompanied at the time by a high-powered delegation comprising businessmen specializing in major production units and in high-technology industry.

This bilateral cooperation is based on several agreements, notably on the agreements in the fields of trade, air transport, culture, agriculture, civil engineering, technology, and defense. Unprejudiced observers are indeed always struck with admiration for Zaire's fertile land, its rich mineral resources, the stability of its regime, peace and security, and guaranties provided to foreign investments. After appraising all these factors, Mr Shamir stated that his country wanted to promote its cooperation with Zaire to an exemplary, constructive, and mutually advantageous achievement.

In less than 2 years after the resumption of their diplomatic relations, Kinshasa and Tel Aviv have actively maintained contacts and consolidated the basis of their cooperation in a variety of sectors with such determination that nothing can stop the trend any longer.

One can therefore expect the visit by President Herzog, to whom we bid welcome among us, to give momentum to the resumed cooperation, thanks to the friendly talks which he will hold with his Zairian counterpart and to the talks between his delegation and various Zairian authorities.

Finally, the first visit of an Israeli head of state to Zaire can afford the opportunity to seal further the bilateral cooperation between the two countries through firm commitments in vital sectors, which would be the sign of the paramount consecration of the reunion between Kinshasa and Tel Aviv.

## GHANA

### Cuban Agricultural Delegation Touring Country

*AB182025 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The four-man Cuban agricultural experts who are currently on a fact-finding tour of the country have visited the Upper East Region. At a meeting with the delegation, the regional secretary, John Ndeburgre, noted that the revolution in the two countries has shown that peasant farmers are adaptable to changes, and given the required exposure to improve their methods of farming, they can contribute immensely to agricultural productivity. He said Ghana can feed the west African subregion with rice if serious attention is given to agriculture. The region, Mr Ndeburgre said, has good prospects for large-scale production of millet, peanuts, and cassava. He said the problems affecting productivity can be overcome if Ghanaians produce on a cooperative basis.

The leader of the Cuban delegation, Robert (Sejur Ramirez) said his country is committed to the success of Ghana's revolution and will continue to help it in various fields. And it is in this connection that Cuban experts in different fields are already in Ghana to undertake various assignments. Mr (Ramirez) said the experts and their Ghanaian counterparts will draw up a plan after their tour to see how best to promote agriculture. He said his delegation is in the country to, as he put it, pay Cuba's debt to humanity without any strings attached. This is because Cuba was served by other countries during its struggle.

## LIBERIA

### New Timetable for Civilian Rule Submitted to Council

*AB181730 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] A new timetable for the return of the country to civilian rule has been submitted to the People's Redemption Council [PRC] for review and approval. The independent *DAILY OBSERVER* in today's issue was quoting the chairman of the Special Elections Commission, Ernest Hamah. According to the paper, there were no details given; but the chairman, however, said a national referendum, which according to the present timetable should have been held from January 9 to 19 of this year, will now be held in March. This, he added, will take place if the revised draft constitution, now under review at the Capitol, is released before March.

Mr Hamah noted that due to unavoidable circumstances, the detailed timetable prepared by the National Constitution Commission and approved last year by the PRC could not be followed. The chairman, who was speaking shortly after the U.S. and Liberian Governments signed [words indistinct] to determine how many voters are available and who are eligible to vote.

Under the present timetable, the PRC government was to issue decrees on the registration of voters and on the delimitation of electoral constituencies in the country on November 1, 1983. It was to be followed by a referendum this month and then by the lifting of the ban on political activities on April 12, 1984.

## MALI

### President Traore Returns From ICO Summit Conference

*AB182105 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic, General Moussa Traore, returned to Bamako this afternoon from Casablanca where he participated in the Fourth Summit of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. On his arrival at the Bamako airport, President Moussa Traore outlined the perspectives [words indistinct].

[Begin Traore recording] I have returned home from Casablanca where I attended the Fourth Summit of the ICO. This conference was devoted mainly to the three major issues facing the ICO — the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian problem, and the Middle East in general. [end recording]

## NIGERIA

### Lagos Announces SMC Ministerial Appointments

*AB181530 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The head of state and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today swore in the 18 ministers appointed by the Supreme Military Council. They are:

Major General D.Y. Bali, minister of defense;
Brigadier M. Magoro, minister of internal affairs;
Major General M. Vatsa, minister of federal capital territory;
Lieutenant Colonel I. Abdullahi, minister of communications;
Brigadier S.A Omojokun, minister of employment, labor, and productivity;
Group Captain S. Omerua, minister of information, youth, and culture;
Commodore P.S. Koshoni, minister of health;
Mr C. Offodile, attorney general of the Federation and minister of justice.

Others are:

Alhaji Ibrahim Yarima Abdullahi, minister of education, science, and technology;
Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim, minister of transport and aviation;
Dr Bukar Shuaibu, minister of agriculture and water resources;
Dr Mahmud Tukur, minister of commerce and industry;
Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, minister of mines, power, and steel;
Dr Ibrahim Gambari holds the portfolio of external affairs.

Other portfolios are as follows:

Dr O.O. Soleye, minister of finance;
Chief M.S. Adigun, minister of national planning;
Professor Tam David-West, minister of petroleum and energy; and
Dr E.N. Nsan, minister of works and housing.

**Buhari Addresses New Ministers**

*AB182250 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Excerpt] Eighteen ministers were named and sworn in today as members of the Federal Executive Council, FEC, by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. State House correspondent Muhammadu Okirijo was there and now reports.

[Begin recording] [Okirijo] I would like to call it the great expectation of the year 1984, that is, the anxious wait for the appointment of ministers to the Buhari cabinet. And when it did come today, it was not only a great expectation realized but a great hope achieved, because for the first time in the history of Nigeria, it was a departure from the old structure whereby people, like recurring decimals, kept reappearing in successive cabinets, a practice that just could not work, in the same way as new wine in old wine skins just cannot be the ideal. But before I whet your appetite with the list of the new bureau that is going to manage the government of Gen Buhari, let us listen to his congratulatory opening and fervent charge, all wrapped in one.

[Buhari] I congratulate you for your appointment as members of the FEC of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The appointment of ministers has taken us some time, because we had to undertake a deep search for competent Nigerians of proven integrity, high sense of discipline, public probity, and transparent honesty.

Your appointment is really a happy event, and I am assured that you will fulfill this charge accordingly. I know that you will justify the confidence this aministration has reposed in you. I must emphasize, as usual, that a harmonious relationship between a minister and his permanent secretary and heads of department is the firm corollary to the successful contribution of a ministry to the achievement of the objectives of the administration. I expect no less from all of you. The Supreme Military Council [SMC] will hold you personally responsible and accountable for the success and failure of programs in your respective ministries and departments.

[Okirijo] Having given the cue of the new administration, the head of state amplified the issues that are most hateful to the new administration and which would not be expected of the new breed of ministers.

[Buhari] It is necessary to restate that this administration, born out of the circumstances very well known to you all, will not tolerate fraud, indiscipline, corruption, squandermania, misuse and abuse of public office, nor self or group aggrandizement and such other vices which characterized the civilian administration of the past 4 years. These vices, which have eaten deep into the very fabric of our society, will be fought with all the resources at our disposal and the cooperation of all Nigerians. You have therefore, a golden opportunity to pilot the crusade of national rejuvenation by giving Nigeria a new sense of direction, hope, and pride, and I believe that you will not fail the nation. Good leadership cannot be but by example.

[Okirijo] General Buhari does not want a team that cannot be held accountable from the word go. So he wants all members of the cabinet to let the whole nation know their position with regard to material belongings and whatever.

[Buhari] According to the directives of the SMC, you are expected to declare your assets and deposit the duly completed asset declaration forms with the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, within 6 weeks from today. I should also add that proposals by a minister to travel out of Nigeria on official duty must be submitted in a memorandum stating the purpose of the tour and expenses involved to the FEC for approval. However, where time factors and other circumstances do not allow for such clearance, anticipatory approval, to be ratified later by the FEC, could be obtained from me.

[Okirojo] The head of state showed something of the thoroughness in him, a will that makes haste slow.

[Buhari] Your immediate task as ministers would be to undertake a critical review of all major projects and programs being undertaken by your ministries, departments and parastatals in order to determine their priority and cost, the stage of implementation, the quantity of work already done, the amount of funds committed to each project, etc. The purpose of this exercise, which should be completed and submitted to the FEC by the end of April this year, is to ensure that our scarce resources budgeted for the execution of projects are spent most judiciously on wise projects and programs which will lift the nation from the problems of economic recession and have a positive impact on the socioeconomic life of the common man. Another task to be handled is to proceed with speed to examine the adequacy of the existing structure and organization of the ministries to which you are assigned and take appropriate steps to rationalize them to conform with the 18-ministry structure recently approved by the SMC for the Federal Government. Low-priority and politically motivated projects will be shelved, dropped, or retained, as the case may be. Nigeria must learn to make use of its resources and manage its affairs more judiciously and prudently. Once the review has been completed, ministers must move with firmness to ensure the expeditious execution and completion of such approved projects and programs.

[Okirojo] General Buhari, being privy of the modus operandi of previous administrations and truly anxious to rejuvenate the nation, had a final warning for the ministers and did not mince words about the repercussions for those who fall by the wayside.

[Buhari] Your appointment and the office you hold both attract sympathy, favors, and patronages with [word indistinct] and traffickers you may listen to. But I hasten to warn that you must not allow yourselves to be victims of these pressures. The SMC will keep a keen and watchful eye on your performance, your style of life and general public conduct while in office and will not hesitate to take appropriate corrective measures to ensure your

public accountability at all times. The aim of this administration is to shun indiscipline in public life. Consequently, the SMC will not tolerate a situation where public office holders live in affluence while the general masses continue to wallow in abject poverty. [end recording]

**SMC Suspends Constitution, Authorizes Detentions**
*AB190728 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] At a meeting which preceded the swearing-in ceremony, the Supreme Military Council considered and approved two decrees which are to be of immediate application. They are the Constitution Suspension and Modification Decree 1984 and the State Security Detention of Persons Decree 1984.

The State Security Decree empowers the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, to detain any person if he is (?suspected) to be a security risk for (?3) months [words indistinct].

The chief of staff may review the period of detention every 3 months and extend it for a further 3 months, if necessary.

The meeting also approved the composition of Army and Air Force councils and Navy boards as well as the National Defense and Security Council. The boards and the councils should be under the chairmanship of the head of the Federal Military Government and commander in chief of the Armed Forces with [words indistinct].

**Talks To Be Held in UK on Trade Debt Refinancing**
*AB181123 Lagos NAN in English 1110 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[By Rowland Nwachukwu]

[Text] London, Jan 18 (NAN) — The Nigerian High Commission in London yesterday confirmed that a team of senior Nigerian officials is scheduled to arrive in London on Saturday to resume negotiations with export credit agencies over the refinancing of the backlog of trade payments estimated at 5.5 billion dollars (about 4 billion naira).

A London daily newspaper, the *FINANCIAL TIMES*, had reported on Monday that a group of Nigerian officials was due in Europe next week-end to continue the negotiations.

A spokesman for the economic department of the Nigerian High Commission told the London correspondent of NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that members of the Nigerian team would include the permanent secretary in the Federal Ministry of Finance, Alhai Abubakar Alhaji, and the Central Bank governor, Alhaji Abubakar Ahmed.

Representatives of Nigeria's financial advisers, S.G. Warburg, Lehman Brothers, Kuhnloeb and Lazard Freres, were in Lagos for discussion last week, and further talks are scheduled with different European agencies next week.

Nigeria and a number of international banks had reached two refinancing agreements on the back-log of the short-term trade debts in July and September last year.

The spokesman could not, however, confirm whether Nigeria on Monday made a principal repayment of 110 million U.S. dollars (more than N82 million) on one of the two European currency loans raised in 1978 as was also reported by the *FINANCIAL TIMES*.

**Sudanese President Numayri To Visit 19 Jan**
*AB181745 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] President Ja'afar Numayri of the Sudan arrives in Lagos tomorrow for a day's visit to Nigeria. He will be met at the airport by the head of state and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, and other service chiefs.

The Sudanese leader will later tomorrow hold private talks with General Buhari at Godan Barracks. President Numayri will leave Lagos on Friday for home.

Our State House correspondent reports that the Sudanese leader will be the first head of state to visit Nigeria since the change of government.

**Collapse of OAU Conference on Chad Examined**
*AB180845 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Jan 84*

[Alex Ekenyawo commentary]

[Text] The latest in the 2-decade-old efforts to bring a lasting peace to Chad has again hit the rocks. The ill-fated 5-day conference organizaed under the auspices of the OAU failed to take off because the Chadian factions could not reach a consensus on the procedural problems that arose.

First, Chadian President Hissein Habre failed to show up in Addis Ababa because the Ethiopian leader and OAU chairman, Mengistu Haile Mariam, personally welcomed Goukouni Oueddei, a welcome the Chadian Government delegation said was only fit for a head of state. The second was the insistance of the delegation from Ndjamena that it would display the Chadian national flag and the subsequent refusal of the rival factions to grant that request. The other problem was the question of the legitimacy of the Ndjamena government. The issue was whether or not it was to negotiate with the other factions on the basis of equality.

But spokesmen for the Ethiopian leader said that Chadian President Hissein Habre was promised that all the protocol associated with the presence of a foreign head of state would be accorded to him. This, the statement said, included reception at the airport by the Ethiopian head of state, inspection of the guard of honor and the firing of the traditional 21-gun salute.

In trying to absolve itself from blame the OAU explained that Hissein Habre agreed to come to Addis Ababa after an OAU delegation had outlined the procedures that would be followed at the talks: firstly, that there would be no name plates; and secondly, that no flags would be displayed.

Most of the points raised by the interested parties contradicted one another so much that nobody knows what to believe. Nevertheless, purists of what international relations should entail are now saying that it was a serious breach of protocol for the Ethiopian head of state to have personally welcomed Goukouni Oueddei when he is not recognized as the president of Chad. Top officials of the Ethiopian Government or the OAU should have carried out that assignment, and perhaps Hissein Habre would have come to Addis Ababa.

Again, it is difficult to believe that Hissein Habre agreed to negotiate with the other factional leaders on an equal basis. In the first place, the Habre government is recognized by the OAU. Therefore, agreeing to sit in a conference on equal terms with his rivals will seriously call to question his claims to legitimacy. In fact, in negotiations like that, every party usually likes to place itself at an advantage. This means, though, that Hissein Habre is the head of the central government in Ndjamena. This situation invariably places his delegation at an advantage over others. But there are times when peculiar conditions may warrant compromising whatever advantage a party has, and this is where one would like to examine this issue from the point of view of the OAU.

In a communique issued on the 5th day of the conference that never was, Hissein Habre was said to have agreed on the conditions laid down by the OAU. The OAU has all the facts and figures on Chad, so it knows best why it wanted all the Chadian factions to (?give up) all advantages and why they should meet at the conference as equals.

If all these were acceptable to Hissein Habre, his conspicuous absence in the Ethiopian capital is inadequate to explain why the conference did not take off the ground at all. It is, therefore,safe to assume that the critical problems that led to the collapse of the conference were either ignored or not adequately taken care of before the parties in dispute were invited to Addis Ababa. The ill-fated conference should indeed be an eye-opener to the OAU. The Chad example has clearly shown that minor issues of procedure can lead to the failure of a conference that should otherwise be taken very seriously.

But definitely the OAU will not give up in its efforts to help work out a formula acceptable to all Chadian factions and one that will ensure lasting peace in that country. What happened in Addis Ababa is a step backwards in the attempt to realize this objective. But the lessons from it could serve useful purposes in future when similar problems arise.

What is not clear however, is the role the external forces that have vested interests in Chad played, either for the success or failure of the conference. Libya backs Goukouni and even lays claim to part of Chadian territory. It is very likely that whatever stand Goukouni Oueddei took in Ethiopia was at the insistance of Libya. France on her part supports the government of Hissein Habre and has an army of about 2,000 men in Chad.

In reacting to the failure of the conference, Goukouni Oueddei accused France of having prevailed on Hissein Habre not to come for the conference. The OAU accused Habre for the failure, while the Chadian delegation blamed the OAU. With the accusations and counter-accusations, another opportunity for peace in Chad has been lost. However, the matter is such a burn in the neck of everyone now that renewed attempts must be made to bring peace and a good measure of political stability to Chad.

### NLC President Urges Rejection of IMF Loan

*AB180733 Lagos NAN in English 0710 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Ibadan, Jan 17 (NAN) — The president of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Alhaji Hassan Sunmonu, has again warned against the IMF loan, saying that it was a danger to the country's sovereignty.

Speaking at a seminar organized by the Oyo state branch of the NLC, Alhaji Sunmonu described some of the measures the country was required to adopt to get the loan as a "bitter pill" which he said Nigeria could ill afford.

He urged the Federal Military Government to ask former members of the National Assembly to declare their assets publicly so that members of the public could verify them, adding that the NLC had workers all over the federation who had access to vital information. He said the Federal Government should also investigate the allegation that 300 million naira was withdrawn from the accounts of NEPA [National Electric Power Authority] before the election, ostensibly for rural electrifications.

In a message to the seminar, the Oyo military governor, Col Oladayo Popoola, urged the union to help the Federal Government revamp the country's economy.

## SENEGAL

### Technical Aid Agreement Concluded With France

*PM171614 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Jan 84 p 3*

[Alain Rollat dispatch: "France and Senegal To Conclude Framework Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism"]

[Text] Dakar — Before returning to Paris on the evening of Sunday, 15 January, Mr Pierre Mauroy visited a phosphoric acid factory set up at a phosphate deposit in Taiba, northeast of Dakar, and then the site of the construction of the Diama dam, upstream from the Senegal delta, on the Senegalese-Mauritanian border — two projects whose goals and characteristics "correspond in an exemplary way" to the kind of cooperation which ought to exist between France and the developing countries, according to the premier.

In Mr Mauroy's view, France's technical and financial aid should exclusively support projects in keeping with the economic, social,

and cultural needs of the people in the countries concerned, while enabling them to benefit from it as much as possible.

Doubling of Food Aid

With regard to the exploitation of raw materials, the projects must guarantee in advance the existence of commercial outlets. That is true of the Taiba factory, whose production corresponds to the fertilizer needs of Senegal and the neighboring countries and to the purchases guaranteed by the shareholders. Similarly the French Government is not ruling out the possibility of financial participation in the exploitation of the Faleme iron deposits on the eastern border. If the European metallurgists due to meet on this question in Brussels 19 January think the Senegalese industrial project is viable, France will finance the studies relating to the construction of the necessary port and railroad infrastructures.

The Diama dam, whose construction involves Mali and Mauritania as well as Senegal, ought to remove the phenomenon of desertification in this region, which causes famine, and hence to make it possible to farm 400,000 hectares. Nonetheless, Mr Mauroy stressed that the rich countries' solidarity with the poor countries ought to begin "at the most elementary level, that of food." He specified that France will, if necessary, double the volume of its food aid planned for Senegal in 1984, which would increase its contribution to 10,000 metric tons of grain.

A Loan of Fr200 Million

With regard to the country's financial difficulties, Mr Mauroy confirmed during a press conference given Sunday morning that, for the 4th consecutive year, France will give Senegal a loan of Fr200 million. Since Fr54 million was paid back in December, in advance, the balance (Fr146 million) will be granted in March as planned.

In addition the premier stated that the pensions paid to Senegalese veterans will shortly be increased by 5 percent for [au titre de] 1983. Finally Secretary of State for Tourism Roland Carraz and his Senegalese counterpart agreed to draw up a framework agreement for cooperation in the tourism sphere. In the immediate future the French Government will take over the training of 10 local professionals, who will come to France to be initiated into the techniques of management and commercial promotion.

Mr Mauroy concluded that Franco-Senegalese cooperation "is doing marvellously."

Questioned on the failure of the "roundtable meeting" for Chadian reconciliation, the premier replied: "The OAU has concluded that this attempt has failed. I take note of that result and I deeply regret it. Nonetheless, France thinks that there is no other solution than negotiation in the framework of respect for the borders Chad had when it gained independence. Any peaceful and lasting solution depends on a political settlement among the parties concerned."

Mr Mauroy has received an enthusiastic welcome in Saint-Louis de Senegal Friday morning. Several tens of thousands of people massed in the streets and around the central square of Senegal's old capital exuberantly celebrated the arrival of the mayor of Lille — the donor of Fr4 million intended for the construction of a socioeducational center — connected with the fact that the two are sister cities.

### Angolan, RSA Delegations Reportedly To Meet in Praia

*LD190057 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 0001 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] Semiofficial sources in the Cape Verdian capital have told the Portuguese news agency, ANOP, that Angolan and South African delegations will be meeting in Praia. Representatives of both countries are indeed already in the Cape Verdian capital. All indications are that the meeting will be held today, Thursday [19 January], although this has not been confirmed by the Cape Verdian authorities.

Elisio Figueiredo, Angolan ambassador to the United Nations, has meanwhile told ANOP in the city of Praia that his presence in Cape Verde at the same time as a South African delegation is a mere coincidence. According to ANOP, Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio da Moura is expected to arrive in Cape Verde later today.

It will be recalled that the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party reaffirmed in a statement released in Luanda last Tuesday, on the occasion of another anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle of national liberation, the conditions for Angola to accept the cease-fire with the Pretoria regime, namely, that the truce is accepted by SWAPO, that the South African troops withdraw from Angolan territory, and that Pretoria promises to implement UN Resolution No 435 leading to self-determination and independence of Namibia.

## MALAWI

### President Banda Refutes Allegations of Poverty

*MB181930 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] His excellency the life president, Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda, has strongly refuted allegations by certain foreign journalists that the country is poverty-stricken. The life president was speaking to thousands of well-dressed people today on departure at Chileka Airport and on arrival in Kasungu at the beginning of his crop inspection tour of the central and northern regions. In his speeches, the life president emphasized that people everywhere in this country had enough food, dressed in decent clothes, and lived in good houses that do not leak.

The Ngwazi described those foreign journalists who wrote malicious stories to the effect that Malawi was poor as liars, ignorant, and prejudiced. The life president said everywhere in the country people were not only able to feed themselves, but are also decently clothed and stay in brick houses with corrugated iron roofs everywhere, even in villages. The life president stressed that Malawi was not interested in making millionaires, but in having three basic things: enough food, decent clothes, and good housing.

At this point, the Ngwazi expressed his satisfaction that Malawi was one the few countries in Africa able to feed themselves. He pointed out that Malawians were much better off than people in most other African countries. The life president was particularly happy that not only Malawians but Europeans as well appreciate what he has done and is still doing to develop this country.

His excellency also appealed to his people to continue working hard in the fields in order to further improve their living standards. He said by what he heard, Malawians will continue to prosper and to have basics they need. The life president then said he was pleased to note that all along the presidential route from (Kanjita) Palace to Chileka Airport, with a few exceptions, the maize crop in people's gardens was very healthy.

In their speeches on both the life president's departure in Blantyre and on arrival in Kasungu, the party leaders expressed gratitude to the life president for fostering unity among the people which, they said, has resulted in tremendous development throughout the country. The party leaders also paid tribute to the Ngwazi for establishing a (?place) in the country from which people learn modern farming methods. On the crop situation, the leaders said it was pleasing to note that so far rains have been steady in many parts and that the general condition of crops in the fields was good. The leaders pledged to continue working hard in the fields to ensure bumper-crop yields this year.

## MOZAMBIQUE

### 100,000 Deaths Reportedly Caused by Drought

*MB181900 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Three tons of seeds will arrive in Maputo by the end of this week. This was announced on Monday by the French-Mozambique Emergency Group, which includes 17 organizations under the patronage of Daniele Mitterrand, wife of the president of the Republic of France. After a report was presented to the press by (Gabriel Arnaud), coordinator of the group's activities, a brochure was distributed containing detailed information on the scope of the famine problem in Mozambique, including statements by French doctors and agronomists working in our country.

The general opinion of the specialists who have had recent experience with the Mozambique problem, and who addressed the press conference, is that the number of people who have died directly or indirectly from the drought is close to 100,000.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Pik Botha Awaits Text of Angola Cease-fire Terms

*MB190712 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 84*

[Text] Angola has set conditions for what it calls a possible cease-fire in its fighting with South Africa. SAPA-ASSOCIATED PRESS quotes the Angolan state-run news agency, ANGOP, as saying that Angola will agree to a cease-fire if the following conditions are met by South Africa. Firstly, SWAPO must agree to the arrangement. Secondly, South African military units must withdraw from Angolan soil and South Africa must agree to implement UN Security Council Resolution

435 on independence for South-West Africa. Thirdly, South Africa must agree to begin moving towards South-West African independence without considerations foreign to the UN resolutions. The statement reaffirms the Angolan Government's continuing faith in its accord with Cuba over the stationing of about 25,000 Cuban troops in Angola.

SAPA says that the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, approached for comment in Cape Town last night said he would react to the statement as soon as he had seen the actual text of the Angolan statement.

Before the recent Defense Force operation in Angola and the withdrawal of South African troops, Mr Botha told the UN secretary-general that South Africa was willing to start disengaging its forces periodically operating against SWAPO on condition that Angola took reciprocal action. He also said that the South African Government remained willing to start implementing Resolution 435 as soon as the problem of the Cuban presence in Angola had been resolved.

### Prime Minister Invites State Leaders to Talks

*MB181644 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has invited the leaders of the six national states to take part in informal talks in Cape Town tomorrow. They are Mr Kenneth Mopeli of Qwa Qwa; Mr Simon Sikosana of kwaNdebele; Dr Cedric Phatudi of Lebowa; Professor Hudson Ntsanwisi of Gazankulu; Chief Gatsha Buthelezi of kwaZulu; and Mr Enock Mabuza of kaNgwane. Members of Mr Botha's cabinet, other senior officials, and the commissioner general of the six states have also been invited to attend.

### KwaZulu Chief Declines Invitation

*MB181646 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1553 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] Cape Town, Jan 18, SAPA — Chief Gatsha Buthelezi has turned down an invitation to join homeland leaders at a meeting with the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, in Cape Town tomorrow.

A spokesman for the prime minister's office confirmed today that the controversial kwaZulu leader had declined the invitation, but did not know his reasons.

Reports published this morning indicated that Chief Buthelezi was not willing to give exact reasons for his refusal to attend. He said it would be "impolitic" to give his reasons at this stage, but that he may do so later.

Talks at a luncheon are expected to be on a low profile and no major statements are expected from the meeting, an annual conference between the prime minister and homeland leaders.

Chief Buthelezi also refused to meet the previous prime minister, the late Mr B.J. Vorster, at similar gatherings.

## SWAZILAND

### Delegation Leaves for Oil Meeting in Pretoria

*MB181726 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The minister of commerce, industry, mines, and economic planning [title as received], Mr Derick von Wissel, with Prince Khuzulwandle, the minister for natural resouces, land utilization, and energy, left the country yesterday for Pretoria to attend a ministerial meeting of the Interstate Oil Committee. In an interview, the acting under secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Tourism, Mr Sam Malinga, said the meeting, held under the auspices of the Customs Union Area, will be attended by ministers from Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, and the Republic of South Africa. Mr Malinga said the interstate oil meeting will consider, among others, matters relating to the possibility of a price increase of petroleum products in the Customs Union Area, the use of Durban as the pricing harbor, and the effects of Sasol products in the area.

The ministers are accompanied by, among others, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Tourism, Mr Percy Mngomezulu; the chief customs officer, Mr Mike Mkhonta; and the chief commercial officer, Miss Thembayena Dlamini. The delegation is expected back home tomorrow.

## ZAMBIA

### Kaunda Tours Shops To Investigate Price Hikes

*MB190719 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, today visited public institutions, state shops, and markets on a fact-finding tour of price hikes in the capital. The president's visit took him to the city center, Matero, Soweto, Liboma, and Chelston market, where he compared prices of essential commodites with those on the black market.

Dr Kaunda, who was accompanied by Lusaka member of the Central Committee Mr Fines Bulawayo, as well as party and government officials, also paid a surprise visit to the Northmead supermarket and bakery. The tour is a follow-up on his directive to councils, Zambia National Service, and prisons to open up retail outlets in the country where essential commodities could be sold to consumers at reasonable prices which could be afforded by the poorest of the poor.

During his visit President Kaunda also checked the pricing of school exercise books and text books at the NEDCOZ [National Educational Distribution Company of Zambia] town office, where he was told that there was a shortage of textbooks in the country. President Kaunda also visited Kingstons Zambia Limited to find out the availability of imported and local publications, including books and educational materials.

## ZIMBABWE

### State of Emergency Extended for Six Months

*MB190656 Harare Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Text] The state of emergency has been extended for another 6 months. Introducing the motion in the House of Assembly today, the minister of home affirs, Comrade Simbi Mubako, said there has been an improvement [words indistinct] such that the government [words indistinct] the powers provided for during the state of emergency. Comrade Mubako said since the renewal of the security measures last July, there were (?537) sightings of bandits, 175 contacts between bandits and security forces, 75 murders, and 284 armed robberies by bandits in Matabeleland, and (?the midlands). The motion to extend the state of emergency was passed by an overwhelming majority.

### Outcome of Possible Mugabe Visit to USSR Derided

*MB181402 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 18 Jan 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] We note that Mugabe appears set to pay an official state visit to Moscow at the end of this month. Of course all this hinges on the health of the Soviet leader, Mr Andropov, who has not been looking too well lately. Mugabe was to travel to Moscow in September, shortly after his abortive visits to Britain, Ireland, and America, but Andropov's health didn't allow the visit. At least that was the official reason given, anyway.

About October, the greatest Marxist of them all, Nathan Shamuyarira, paid a quiet and unofficial visit to Moscow, almost begging that Muggers [Mugabe] be allowed the full publicity of a trip to the USSR. He came home with a very large flea in his ear, but the Ruskies must have thought better of it because they then had their ambassador in Maputo advise Mugabe he could come if he wanted to. So Mugabe packed off three of his more sober henchmen — Nkala, Nyamgumbo, and Mutasa — to Moscow to arrange things for a visit at the end of January.

We understand that an announcement of improved relations will emerge as a result of the trip — if it comes off — and the opening of a Zimbabwe Embassy in Moscow is on the cards. In all these comings and goings, it will be noted that it is Mugabe, not Moscow, which is doing all the wooing, and this has been the tenor of the entire relationship.

At independence, Mugabe coldly turned his back on the Soviet Union for its long-term help to ZAPU, and because Mugabe thought he had the world at his feet. Now that he has managed to sour most of these feelings in the bosom of the West, and as he draws ever nearer to his dream of a one-party dictatorship, he does not think he needs the West anyway. What he wants now is hard-line dictatorial backing from one of the two most powerful nations on earth — a nation that has done it all when it comes to subjugating entire peoples — the Soviet Union. None of the other Marxist dictatorships — the Chinese, the North Koreans, or the East Europeans — are in a position to offer him the kind of advice and help that Russia can. So it's off with the old and on with the new, and heaven alone knows what Mugabe's prepared to offer in return for Soviet support.

But Mr Mugabe's head is getting swollen out of all proportion to the miniscule size of the grey matter held within, and he might find himself giving away more than he bargained for. It can truly be said that he who sups with the devil must use a long spoon. We just hope Mugabe's spoon is long enough. There haven't been too many countries in the past 70 years who have negotiated with Moscow and come out on top, and Mugabe is certainly not in the ranks of the world's leading negotiators. The Reds will flatter him, wipe his chin for him, burp him, and pander to his whims, and he'll come away with his wallet empty and, we sincerely hope, his heart broken. It couldn't happen to a nicer chap.